

The Virginia Clubwoman



SEPTEMBER 2025

2025



SUMMER

CONFERENCE



President's Message

Susie Mowry

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The President's Message—

The last few days have been lovely, wonderful weather and clear skies. Let's hope this is a sign of more pleasant weather to come. As far as GFWC Virginia clubs go, no one has let the hot weather stand in the way of the successes you have achieved. Your GFWC sisters are working hard, and your communities are all the better for it.

The GFWC Virginia Summer Conference provided valuable information and some fun as well. Thanks to your generosity, thousands of crayons and coloring books were donated to early childhood education centers in two of our districts. We were honored to have Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary, attend our meeting and provide us with valuable information about resolutions. It was my hope that this information would give us all a better insight into the GFWC resolutions and how important they are to our organization. Thank you to all the presenters of the Affiliate information, including Dr. Gettys. Attendees learned a lot about what is needed by these organizations and how we can help them, in addition to the generous donations our clubs make. For those that did not attend the conference, this information will be available on the GFWC Virginia website. Through the guidance of our Leadership Team led by Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapmen, we made hot air balloons, symbolic of each of our leadership strengths. There were tabletop exercises or ideas of Early Childhood Education projects which State Project Chairman, Nancy Vadersen, has compiled and will provide to each club and district. Sarah Entsminger, our Parliamentarian, spoke about by laws and stressed the importance of yearly review and keeping them up to date with what your clubs are doing. I was so glad to announce the Jennie Award winner for Virginia...Beth Pappas from the Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club. Though unable to personally attend the conference, I called Beth to tell her of her selection. I think she was pleased and excited that her club took the time to recognize all the work that she does. This award is very special and the only GFWC award that recognizes the individual and her club work, as well as her outside community involvement. Look around your own club, see if you have anyone you think is worthy of this award, and consider taking the time to nominate them for next year.

I was so excited to return home from conference to find a resolution about Early Childhood Education in my in-box. A big thank you to Marlene Wine, with input from her committee, for developing this resolution. In fact, this resolution is with the Resolutions Committee of GFWC and is being worked on as we speak, with the expectation of it being presented at the GFWC convention in Scottsdale, Arizona!

I attended the GFWC Board meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was an interesting meeting with several issues addressed. In the state president meeting, the issue of AI was discussed. Evidently there have been several poems and short stories from across the country that have been submitted to the contest that were found to be AI generated. GFWC has purchased the software that is used to evaluate the possibility of a submission being AI generated. If you have a submission to your writing contest that you suspect may fall in this category, GFWC has offered to run it through their software. Another benefit of



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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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belonging to GFWC!

One of the speakers at the meeting, Leslie Capps, GFWC Honorary Chairman, focused on storytelling. Her talk was titled, Move the GFWC Mission with Your Story. According to her, “Stories are more important than facts” when you are trying to let someone know about GFWC. Think about why you joined GFWC. What impact have you had in your communities. There are certainly many things to ponder and share when you consider your own story with GFWC. She will be sharing her PowerPoint with the meeting attendees, and I will gladly share the information with you once I get it.

Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs Joanne Dixon and I will be traveling to two more official visits in October. Lee District on October 4th and Alice Kyle District on October 11th. We are looking forward to both visits. Meeting clubwomen from all the districts, attending the meetings and hearing about all the good work being done in Virginia is certainly one of the major highlights of holding this position.

October will certainly be a busy month for GFWC Virginia. As I am sure all of you know, GFWC Virginia will be hosting the Southeastern Region meeting at the Hotel Roanoke on October 23-25, 2025. You have been hearing about this meeting for several months now and I am grateful for all the districts willingness to assist with this endeavor. A special thank you to Kathryn Sowers for what must seem to her like never-ending work with the region. With all the help promised by GFWC Virginia districts, this will be a wonderful and successful meeting. I thank you in advance for letting others see how extraordinary the Virginia Federation really is.

Thank you, GFWC Virginia, for your unwavering dedication and the incredible work you have done and will continue to do. Your reputation with GFWC is stellar and I could not be prouder to represent this wonderful Federation.

Susie

Joanne Dixon
GFWC Virginia Third Vice President
Director of Junior Clubs

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I was honored to represent Virginia Juniors at the GFWC Convention in Atlanta and was happy to accept the Advocate for Children Award with Madame President! Thank you to all who have supported our collections at our state meetings. Our conference supported Northern and Shenandoah Districts with coloring books and crayons. These will be distributed to early childhood education centers in those districts.

Advocates for Children Week is October 19-26, 2025. The main goal of Advocates for Children Week is to encourage members to be a voice for children, especially those in vulnerable situations. Activities during the week aim to protect children from harmful situations, encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles, and impact policy to improve children’s lives. This program empowers clubwomen, and the wider community, to actively support children at the grassroots level by speaking out on their behalf. Here are project ideas you can do to support Advocates for Children.

Website:
www.gfwc.org

GFWC OFFICERS

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1. Addressing immediate needs

- “Busy Bags” for children in crisis: Gather items like books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, and small stuffed animals to create “busy bags” for children in challenging situations, such as those at law enforcement or child protective service agencies.
- Refresh Children’s Waiting Rooms: Partner with local agencies (police, social services) to identify and address the needs in their children’s waiting areas. Clean, paint, and add kid-friendly furniture and items like a book nook or art supplies to make these spaces more welcoming and comfortable.
- Donation Drives: Organize drives for items addressing immediate needs, such as:
 - o Bedding: Partner with organizations like Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) to provide beds and bedding to children in need.
 - o Hygiene & Comfort Items: Collect personal hygiene products, clothing, blankets, and comforting items for children removed from unsafe situations.
 - o Diapers & Wipes: Partner with organizations like Bundles of Hope to collect and distribute diapers and wipes to families in need.

2. Promoting education and development

- Book Nooks & Reading Programs: Create book nooks in waiting areas or shelters, or establish reading programs at facilities like veteran and senior centers.
- Therapeutic Arts & Activities: Organize creative art activities, like modeling with clay, for children with motor disabilities or engage in art therapy projects with children in hospitals or shelters.
- Support for Foster Children: Teach life skills workshops to prepare foster children who are aging out of the system, or create overnight kits or customized duffle bags to provide them with a sense of security.

3. Raising awareness and advocating for change

- Promote Awareness of Childhood Issues: Educate the community on issues like child abuse and neglect, possibly by inviting speakers, hosting workshops, and sharing information on recognizing potential victims.
- Support Mental Health Initiatives: Advocate for law enforcement training on mental health awareness for children and support programs promoting children’s mental and physical health.
- Support & Volunteer at Child Welfare Organizations: Volunteer time or resources to organizations like Easter Seals or Big Brothers/Big Sisters, or support programs providing mentors to children.
- Child Trafficking Awareness: Partner with organizations like Project Rescue and utilize tools like the TraffickCam.com app to help identify and report child trafficking victims.
- Legislative Advocacy: Research and advocate for bills that benefit children’s physical and mental health at the state legislature level.

4. Community engagement & fundraising

- Host Events: Organize fundraisers like car washes, bake sales, or fitness challenges to raise money for child-focused charities like St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or the Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU.
- Collaborate: Partner with local businesses, schools, or other community groups to maximize the impact of your projects and reach a wider audience.
- Promote Child Advocacy: Get your city or county to recognize October 19-26, 2025 as Advocates for Children Week, and use this opportunity to highlight your projects and efforts in the media and social media.

These are just a few ideas to get started. Be creative and adapt projects to fit the specific needs of your community. Remember to document your activities and share your successes to inspire and encourage other clubs to participate in this crucial work.

Joanne

Cynthia Baroody

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Lynn Chapman

GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

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Greetings GFWC Virginia Club Members! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our GFWC Virginia Summer Conference at Hotel 24, in Staunton, Virginia, in August. We all enjoyed meeting and talking with Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary, who provided us with greetings from GFWC Headquarters along with information about Canine Companions and an informative talk about Resolutions. Many thanks to the Shenandoah District for their gracious hospitality; they truly did a spectacular job!

Our Conference was full of fun and facts on a variety of topics! Our Leadership Team provided a “hands-on” workshop to help everyone soar to success in leadership. The script was adapted from the GFWC Leadership Team’s workshop presented at the GFWC Convention in Atlanta, so it fit the theme of our GFWC Virginia president’s theme and symbol of a hot air balloon. All participants worked on identifying their personal leadership skills while building their very own hot air balloon. The workshop was a “soaring success” and our Virginia Federation can be proud of our club members who are stepping up to lead the way to our future success. A personal thank you to the district 1st vice presidents who make up this leadership team and to the Alice Kyle, Blue Ridge, Northern and Southwestern District Presidents who participated in this workshop when their 1st vice presidents were unable to attend the conference. You really showed everyone what it means to soar into leadership! Anyone wishing to use this workshop with their clubs may contact the district presidents or 1st vice presidents for all the information. The original workshop will be available for anyone who may request it.

On the second day of our conference, we held our GFWC Virginia LEADS seminar. This seminar was attended by twenty-eight of our club women representing all our districts. Many thanks to our LEADS Chairman, Jenny Hinegardner for coordinating this wonderful opportunity for developing our future leaders.

Don’t forget that the GFWC LEADS will be held next year in Scottsdale, Arizona on June 26, 2026 at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. If you wish to attend, you may find the application in the GFWC Virginia Yearbook Supplement on page 109S. The deadline for submitting this application along with two letters of support is January 15, 2026.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and remember your Leadership Team is always available to answer any of your questions or concerns – we are working together to make you successful.

Carolyn Fellers

GFWC Virginia Second Vice President

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Alaina Chaffee

GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman

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Thank you to all that attended summer conference and for your participation in the membership tabletop exercise. We focused on recruiting new members to our clubs. You are creative group of women! Some of the ideas shared were Cow Pattie Bingo, Brunch and Bubbles, Scavenger hunts, Ice Cream Socials, asking women to help with a service project to

experience the camaraderie of your club.

What is your club doing to recruit new members? Think outside of the box, be a part of upcoming local events, be present at these events so people learn who you are and what you are about.

Now that you are bringing in the new members, don't forget to let us know who has joined you by entering their information using the online New Member Coupon portal on our website www.gfwcvirginia.org. The online form allows you to enter the information easily and submit multiple new member coupons at a time. We want to make time to send a letter or email welcoming each into our organization.

Now that the members are a part of your club. What is on the to do list to retain your new members? Set up a time to hold a new member orientation. We want our club women to learn the processes of how your club functions and about GFWC on all levels. Ask a more seasoned member to be their mentor. To be the person they can contact with questions or concerns. Educating our members well leads to growth not only as members, but also as future leaders of our organization.

Thank you for all you do each day to help our organization grow and to help the members of our communities.

Lynne Wherry

GFWC Virginia Treasurer

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Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Secretary/Treasurer

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The recent GFWC Virginia Summer Conference proved to be an energizing and inspiring event for all who attended. The day was filled with engaging discussions, potential projects, and creative activities that clubs can implement throughout the year. Attendees had the opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends, make new friends, and uplift one another in true GFWC spirit.

Treasurers across districts and clubs were reminded of their key responsibilities as they take on their roles. For those beginning their first year of administration, now is the time to coordinate with the previous Treasurer to ensure a smooth handover of financial records. It is also important to work with the new President to update bank account signatories and review the organization's bylaws and standing rules to prepare for the year ahead.

For treasurers entering their second year, they are encouraged to review their books and finalize budgets to prepare for a successful term. Whether new or returning, all Treasurers play a crucial role in maintaining the financial health and integrity of their clubs.

GFWC Virginia leadership emphasized its ongoing commitment to supporting members in every role. "You are not alone in this," they affirmed. "We are here for you—ready to answer questions, offer guidance, and help navigate any challenges that may arise. Our support is unwavering, and we are dedicated to helping you succeed."



Parliamentary Notes

Sarah Entsminger, PRP

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Parliamentary procedure, which includes all the rules that govern the transaction of business in meetings, is often misunderstood, or considered too complicated to use in everyday meetings. There are a variety of parliamentary authorities available, although Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) is the most often used parliamentary authority and is the authority for our organization. I continue to recommend that clubs purchase a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, In Brief, as it is very user friendly and sets out the basics necessary to manage meetings. The purpose of parliamentary procedure is to help organizations conduct business efficiently, effectively, and fairly. Unfortunately, everyone has seen parliamentary procedure incorrectly used at some point in time, particularly by people with a personal agenda they wish to force through a business meeting. These are a few of the most common myths relating to parliamentary procedure:

Myth: "The absence of a quorum is OK if nobody brings it up"

This is the quickest path to serious trouble. The general rule is that any business transacted without a quorum is null and void, regardless of whether or not any member raises the issue.

Myth: "The maker of a motion gets to speak first and last"

The maker of a motion has the right to speak first to a motion. After that, the maker has no more rights than any other member. Rules of debate are covered in RONR.

Myth: "A friendly amendment is OK"

Such a practice is unfair and violates parliamentary law. Once a motion has been stated by the presiding officer, it belongs to the assembly and after that point, the maker has no more right than any other member to change the motion. Any changes would need to be made through the use of amendments and processed by the presiding officer.

Myth: "Old business"

There is no parliamentary concept of "old business". What is sometimes misnamed, as "old business" is actually "unfinished business" carried over from a previous meeting, business that was not disposed of during that previous meeting. This does not mean anything that might have been discussed previously or a project that is considered ongoing. Business in this category will be known to the presiding officer from the minutes of the proceeding meeting and no call is made to the assembly for unfinished business.

Myth: "Calling Question stops all business or discussion"

No single member may end debate by calling out "Question", or "I call the question". The motion to end debate or "move the previous question" is a main motion that can be made and only the assembly decides when to end debate. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption, although if it is clear that debate has ended, a presiding officer may use unanimous consent to close debate.

Myth: "Lay on the table gets rid of sticky issues"

The purpose of "lay on the table" is to temporarily delay a matter when something else of urgency arises, such as a fire alarm going off. The motion should be ruled out of order if the intent is to kill or avoid dealing with a measure.

As always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance or if you have any questions.

Lynn Osborne

**GFWC Virginia Communications and
Public Relations Chairman**

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Press Release Guidelines: During the Communication and Public Relations Workshop at the GFWC 2025 Convention, Rita presented these guidelines on writing a press release. Press releases can be posted on social media sites, local newspapers and radio stations, and community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce. They are very effective in announcing any GFWC events past and upcoming.

- The GFWC Logo should be in the upper left-hand corner with the address to the right.
- A Press Release should identify the document's purpose.
- Establish information, news, and who to contact for help with questions or to speak with leadership.
- The Headline should be catchy, if you can, ALL CAPS & Bold.
- Use a subheading with additional information for clarity and place it in italics.
- The Dateline has the location and date.
- The Lead Paragraph will Answer: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How (this question can be done in the follow-up paragraph after the quote or within the quote).
- The Quotation should support the lead paragraph. Rephrase the importance/significance.
- The 3rd Paragraph contains additional information.
- The 4th Paragraph has a Quotation supporting the 3rd Paragraph.
- The last Paragraph Identifies the Issue Expert to contact for more information.
- ### Denotes End of Press Release.
- Boilerplate --- Summary of the organization's mission and states purpose, membership, etc.
- The voice is always "ACTIVE", no passive/ past tense (never --- otherwise it isn't news).
- The GFWC Style Guide contains additional information on an effective press release.

Have you signed up to be a member of the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook? This private Facebook page is a great opportunity to get updates from the GFWC Leadership, Membership, and Communication and Public Relations Chairmen. In addition, there is information and interviews from the other GFWC Advancement and Programs chairmen. It is easy to join. Answer a few questions about your GFWC affiliation, and an admin will approve you for the group. Members can invite other members to join. Help us reach our goal of at least 3,000 members.

Information is from the July 2025 GFWC Communications and Public Relations Newsletter

Gloria Worrell
GFWC Virginia Endowment Chairman
endowment@gfwcvirginia.org

Did you know that the Endowment funds are designated investments, and that the interest/ dividends from this fund are used to operate GFWC Virginia. The Endowment Fund is administered and managed by the GFWC Virginia officers and Endowment Committee. The membership of this committee is comprised of the GFWC Virginia Officers, GFWC Budget and Finance Chair and GFWC Budget and the GFWC Virginia Endowment Chair.

The Dogwood Society was established in 2001 as a fundraiser campaign designated for the Endowment fund. It is an honor to wear the Dogwood Society pin. It is part of helping to ensure the future of GFWC Virginia.

At Conference we held a Dogwood Raffle with all the proceeds going to one lucky winner to use toward her Dogwood pin. Congratulations to Helen Hill of the Windsor Woman's Club of Southside District.

If you are interested in joining the Dogwood Society, you can see me at Convention in Williamsburg or you can reach out to Heather at Headquarters.



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 bring you greetings from the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Virginia Board of Directors, where I serve as a Vice President. Again, this year I was privileged to attend the HOBY Virginia Seminar held at James Madison University May 30 – June 1. The theme of this year’s seminar was “Leaders On The Rise”, and all eight of our Districts were represented by attendees! Over 160 Ambassadors attended.

Did you know that at HOBY, leadership development programs ensure that students gain awareness of themselves and others, practice and apply newly learned skills, and leave feeling empowered to make a positive impact on the world around them. This is how HOBY does it.....

State Leadership Seminars – The flagship program welcomes student ambassadors to the 3-day seminar each spring. Students explore their personal leadership skills and values and practice those skills while collaborating with diverse groups.

World Leadership Congress – Each summer, the WLC hosts student ambassadors representing all 50 United States and 15+ countries in a major U.S. city. This week-long, immersive leadership experience challenges student to think critically, communicate effectively, and act with integrity.

Community Leadership Workshop – Community Leadership Workshops are developed by volunteers across the U.S. for 9th grade students as an introduction to leadership education.



Closing Ceremony



Rebecca Brockman of RMHC Charities and I display the blankets, welcome bags, plus other donated items provided to RMHC

This year, Rebecca Brockman, volunteer manager of **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia** introduced the 2025 Service Project and provided a short presentation on RMHC locally and worldwide. The Ambassadors were quite engaged by her enthusiasm and passion for her work. They were inspired by her presentation and encouraged by her commitment to the RMHC families. They produced 30 double sided blankets and over 300 welcome bags for RMHC in an hour and a half.

Planning has already begun for the 2026 Seminar and Registration will open in late September. Counselors in both public and private High Schools will be provided with registration information for students. SO, if you know a student who is a current sophomore, encourage them to request an application package from their school’s guidance department. 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.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the women of GFWC Virginia for your continued support of HOBY!

Sending HOBY HUGS!!!!

Marlene Wine

GFWC Virginia Resolutions Chairman

resolutions@gfwcvirginia.org

Please be sure to read through the GFWC Virginia Resolutions and let me or a member of the Resolutions Committee know of any suggestions for changes. Proposals for new resolutions must follow the GFWC Virginia Standing Rules regarding Resolutions found on page 55 of the GFWC Virginia Yearbook.

Dale Fisher

GFWC Virginia Scholarship Program Chairman

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A big thank you for the generous support of our gently used book sale held at Summer Conference. \$206 was raised which will be equally divided between the Phyllis V. Roberts and Mary Macon McGuire Scholarships. This simple fundraiser was an example of how easily your club can raise money for our GFWC Virginia scholarships as well as your club's scholarship. Have a book sale at your club meeting or incorporate a book sale at another event your club is holding. It is amazing how the dollars add up!

A look back in time, records of our first "scholarship" - at the 1929 GFWC Virginia Convention in Suffolk a resolution was adopted to establish a perpetual renewing Student Loan Fund with the purpose of assisting a girl who was pursuing a degree in Library Science. As a means of raising money for establishing the fund, Mrs. Robert A McGuire (Mary Macon), Chairman, recommended that each club in the State Federation donate at least \$2.50 annually. The first loan in the amount of \$250 was awarded in 1936 with the stipulation that the recipient pay back the loan within 4 years of her graduation. Our recipient did satisfy her debt through monthly payments of \$5.00. It was in the minutes of the 1940 Convention that this student loan fund was first referred to as the Mary Macon McGuire Student Loan.

The requested \$2.50 annual club donation mentioned above would equate to \$47 per club in today's financial setting. But we have a deal for you. To sustain our two scholarship funds, we are suggesting that each club donate \$35 per year or \$17.50 towards each scholarship. These donations may be made via the club's Annual Dues and Contributions Form (page 79S) submitted annually in January.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Nancy Vadersen

GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 State Project Chairman

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Thanks to everyone who attended the GFWC Virginia Conference in August! I enjoyed meeting many of you during the Marketplace event, and I hope that you will be able to share some of the Early Childhood Education ideas with local preschools and day care centers. The results of the Breakfast Brainstorming activity were emailed to the District Presidents and the District State Project Chairmen. If you have not received a copy, please let me know.

Highlighted in this issue are projects from clubs in Southside District and Shenandoah District. Members of Swift Creek WC donated pre-school easy readers to three Colonial Heights daycare centers. Members of Sedley WC read to preschoolers at Graces Little Angels. They also did finger crafts with the children, music activities, and sponge painting.

They donated supplies to these pre-schools such as hand wipes, Clorox wipes, tissues, and paper towels. WC of Windsor partnered with the town's Police Department on their town's National Night Out providing large pictures for the children to color. To show children and parents alike the importance of making healthy food choices, the children were given a baggie full of grapes and were then assisted in turning the bag of grapes into a butterfly. Waynesboro/Augusta WC GFWC gathered donated children's books for a "Little Free Library" box. Club members make monthly donations to this free library for community members to use and keep or return and exchange. The other project is a monthly 'piggy bank' labeled

"Pennies for Preschool." All the penny donations were given to a local preschool to help with the materials needed.

Remember that I have numerous ECE projects that I would love to share with you. Email me at nsmoskwa@verizon.net

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



Hope Royer

Women's History and Resource Center

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What is it and how can we celebrate it?

VA250 is a statewide partnership of localities, museums, nonprofits, government agencies, and more that are working together to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States. Using the phrase as a theme, VA250 strives to educate Virginians about the history of their state, country, and system of government and engage them in events that tell that story.

The American Revolution was a pivotal moment not only in the history of the United States but also in the evolution of women's roles in society. Women emerged as vital contributors to the war effort in various capacities, from political activism to direct involvement in combat and intelligence. They set the stage for future advocacy for women's rights. Their fight for independence was not just about freedom from British rule/ It was about the quest for equality and justice.

- Use your **club newsletter** to introduce the less well-known "women of the War":
- Most local communities have established VA250 Committees. Check yours for **local calendar events and volunteer opportunities**.
- The **Journal of the American Revolution** is an excellent resource. Subscribe to a weekly news message for free.
- The **VA250 Mobile Museum Experience**, "One of Many, One", takes guests on a journey through the pivotal moments of the American Revolution, from Patrick Henry's legendary 1775 speech, "Give me liberty, or give me death", to General George Washington's triumph at Yorktown in 1781. A hands-on, interactive, and immersive "museum on wheels", the Mobile Museum Experience is housed in a quad-expandable tractor-trailer that is traveling throughout Virginia. You can find its travel schedule at VA250.org/MobileMuseum. Apply to get your community on the schedule. Applications for 2026 are open through September 2025.
- Visit local museum exhibits. **The Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC)** in Richmond and **the American Revolution Museum** at Yorktown have teamed up to present "Give Me Liberty: Virginia & the Forging of a Nation." These landmark exhibitions are on view through January 4, 2026.
- Visit VA250.org for information on participating in the **Reading Revolution** (October 13-17, 2025).





Carol Guilliams-Mills and Florence Powell
GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Chairmen
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Congratulations to the 2025 GFWC winners from Virginia! In the GFWC Youth Writing Contest, Adeline Frances Barker sponsored from Shenandoah District won Student Poetry Grade K-2, and Luke Crosby also sponsored from Shenandoah District won Student Poetry Grade 6-8. Patricia

Toler from Northern District won the GFWC Photography Contest – The World in Pictures- Reflections. Let their successes inspire you to enter these contests.

We enjoyed talking to the club members who attended the Market Place at GFWC Virginia Conference. There is great enthusiasm as the club year begins. Think about incorporating Arts Contests in your agenda. Please review the Arts Contests Rules and Instructions as you plan and hold your contests. There are deadlines to meet and entry cards or entries to send on time. The Rules are online if you have misplaced them. Go to the Members Resources on the GFWC Virginia website under GFWC Virginia Guiding Documents – Arts Booklet. Plan to meet with teachers and club members to explain the writing and arts contests. Engage the judges to review the entries in a timely manner. Sometimes the contest deadlines occur during a busy or snowy time of the year.

A question we received was how photographs to the contest are to be entered and judged. The club submits entries into the GFWC Photography Contest by submitting an index card to Carol Guilliams-Williams by April 1, 2026. Photographs are not judged on the District level. The photographs are brought to GFWC Virginia Convention to be judged on the State level during the Arts Show. The blue-ribbon winners are submitted to GFWC after Convention (by May 15), if the photographer has provided the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver, which is the last page of the booklet. As always, if you have questions, please call or email us.



Helen Hill
GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman
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We often hear about Resolutions. We attended GFWC VIRGINIA Convention when Resolutions were retired because they had been achieved. But have we read and acted on a Resolution in our clubs?

There are four Resolutions pertaining to Arts & Culture CSP. Resolution. 130-010 Historic Preservation asked that GFWC member clubs take part in preserving local history through recording information and supporting historical sites. This could be recording your club history, if you have not done so.

Resolution 130-020 Museums asked clubs to support local museums with attendance and finance. Plan a trip to a nearby museum for members, in Virginia that is easy to do. If your community does not have a museum, then work with other organizations to form one to preserve history for future generations.

Resolution 130-030 Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project is intended to recognize the contribution of women in industry during World War II. Clubs are asked to contribute to the Project. Individual projects could be to investigate the activities of women in your local industries during this period. Women not only filled jobs in factories but almost any activity in the community when the workers were away. (The difficulty came when the men returned home for their jobs and the women did not want to give them up.)

Resolution 130-040 Support of the Arts asks that clubs contribute to local school Art Departments. It also asks that clubs

campaign Congress to support funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Clubs consider the Resolutions and find a project for your club.

If you would like to read the entire Resolution consult the GFWC Digital Library.



Sue Trussell

GFWC Virginia Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

civicengagement@gfwcvirginia.org

As the season changes, fall offers the perfect opportunity for clubs to re-energize and plan meaningful projects that strengthen communities. Under GFWC's Civic Engagement and Outreach program, there are countless ways to take action that align with both the season and community needs.

Here are some ideas to inspire your club this fall:

- **Support Local Schools:** Organize a back-to-school supply drive, collect warm coats and hats for children, or partner with a school to host a reading night.
- **Honor Veterans:** With Veterans Day in November, plan a program recognizing local veterans, send care packages to deployed service members, or raise awareness about mental health resources for military families.
- **Community Safety:** Partner with local law enforcement or fire departments for a fall safety event—topics could include Halloween safety, fire prevention, or disaster preparedness.
- **Fight Hunger:** Support a local food pantry or host a “Thanksgiving in a Box” drive, gathering all the essentials for a holiday meal to share with families in need.
- **Warmth for the Homeless:** Collect socks, gloves, and blankets, some of the most requested items—for shelters as colder weather approaches.
- **Environmental Action:** Organize a fall clean-up at a park, trail, or community space, or plant trees and bulbs that will bloom in spring.
- **Community Awareness Programs:** Host speakers on topics like identity theft prevention, disaster readiness, or supporting those with PTSD and other mental health challenges.

Fall is a season of abundance and gratitude—what better time to share both with your neighbors? With a little creativity, your club can “fall into service” and create projects that are not only fun and meaningful but also leave a lasting impact on your community.



Ilia Desjardins

GFWC Virginia Education and Libraries Chairman

education@gfwcvirginia.org

“Part of our job as human beings is to share our knowledge and share the things we’ve learned. So, we can either save people from making the same mistakes or give them hope.” - Nicole Kidman

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that over \$2.95 billion dollars were reported lost due to scams in 2024, with over \$293 million dollars lost in Virginia! Imagine clicking on a bad link, trusting the wrong person, or taking some bad advice and losing your entire life savings! It’s happening all around us, but there’s something you can do to help prevent these incidents. We tend to think of education as only learned at schools or universities, but when you give information to your friends and family, you are educating them. Check out the FTC Pass It On (<https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/pass-it-on>) program to learn more about resources to prevent losing money to fraud and scams. Bookmarks and brochures can be ordered in bulk, free of charge, and placed in your club’s little free libraries, handed out in senior snack

bags, placed in donated books, or even discussed during your club meeting. Whether it's hanging up on unwanted calls, not buying gift cards for strangers, doing research into home repair companies, or asking friends and family members their thoughts on something that seems fishy, these little things could save you money. And speaking of unwanted calls, were you aware that if you receive a call from an unknown caller who tries to have a conversation, you should just hang up! Some calls are being recorded and can use your voice to create fake messages which can be used to scam your family out of money! If you don't know the phone number, you don't need to answer the call. If it is a real call, they will leave a message. Sometimes, unfortunately, we can only learn from others mistakes.

It was announced at the 2025 Summer Conference that GFWC Virginia won the Education & Libraries Outstanding Achievement Award! Congratulations to everyone who participated in Club projects and reported accordingly. GFWC Virginia Clubs provided over \$230,000 in scholarships and participated in nearly 550 projects!



ESO

Ilia Desjardins

eso@gfwcvirginia.org

ESO, or Epsilon Sigma Omicron, roughly translates from Greek to "Enlighten Your Own Pathway".

Established in 1928, ESO strives to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. All club members are eligible to join but must complete a pledge application and pay the required dues of \$1.50. Pledges read books in various genres and work their way up through the levels, becoming a member and reaching star level, torch level, century level, and the diamond level- having read 1,000 books! Book totals are cumulative from year to year, and you can join the ESO at any time. The GFWC Virginia ESO has an optional bi-monthly Book Club Discussion via Zoom on the third Tuesday at 7:30pm.

For the last two Book Club Discussion meetings we had the authors of the featured books speak with our group about their writing process, and both speakers were very interesting and engaging!

The next Book Club Discussion will be held on September 16 and we will be discussing *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. The last meeting of the year will be November 18.

All club women are welcome to join the discussion! The link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86252308024?pwd=LfpYlVkf9d3UacaOu0hN1avdv86ZbA.1>

If you have any questions, please send an email to ESO@GFWCVirginia.org



Emily Amick

**GFWC Virginia Environment Chair-
man**

environment@gfwcvirginia.org

Welcome fall! Time for back-to-school, pumpkin spice lattes, and cozy sweaters! I attended the GFWC Virginia Summer Conference, where I learned a lot! I presented a trifold board with information on native Virginia pollinators. I also included environmental projects from other clubs around Virginia. I handed out pollinator seeds and encouraged everyone to plant them. I also handed out personal business cards I designed online. For a fun and sustainable autumn, try making Halloween costumes from what you already have. A plaid shirt and an old



straw hat make a great scarecrow! A pair of blue overalls and a yellow shirt make an awesome Minion from the Despicable Me movies! For sustainable party table décor, try using old mason jars or wine bottles. If you do buy new decorations, consider biodegradable products. Keep decorations for future parties or events. You should also keep decorations for future parties and events. Lastly, try your local farmer's market for seasonal fruits, such as apples and pumpkins! Happy Fall Y'all!



Suzanne Williams
GFWC Virginia Health and Wellness Chairman
health@gfwcvirginia.org

This year at the Summer Conference, I tried to emphasize that health and wellness include happiness and well-being. At the Conference's marketplace in addition to useful handouts about heart health and emergency drug overdose procedures, I provided materials about how to make taking a walk more than a good-for-you chore; that seizing the day also means taking control of our time and schedules; and "joyspan," which is how we can grow and thrive as we age. I especially latched on to "joyspan" because sometimes my own energy level and interest level need a kick in the patootie. When we are active, we generate our own energy. We feel better when we are connecting with others, whether over a cup of coffee or sorting clothes at a charity closet. Giving of our time and effort to help others makes us grateful because we can! All these things contribute to our feelings of happiness and well-being.

And of course, after summer comes fall and then the end-of-the-year rush to the holidays, which in turn is followed by ... reporting! Yes, it will soon be time to begin organizing reporting data. There were many wonderful projects accomplished by clubs last year. Start thinking about your projects for this year's reporting and how you are going to make them shine in the narratives. When you have a project that you think is a real blockbuster, be sure to put it at the top! If you have any questions about reporting, please give me a call or email. We can brainstorm on the issue and come up with a solution.

Thank you for all you do to make our communities a good place to be.



Maureen Mike
GFWC Virginia Legislation and Public Policy Chairman
legislation@gfwcvirginia.org

Have you investigated the Legislative Ladder for "Steps to Successful Legislative Advocacy"?
You haven't? It is on pages 172-173 of the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual.

What is the Legislative Ladder?

The Legislative Ladder is a GFWC Club challenge to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER annually by taking steps on the Ladder. They do not need to be done /completed sequentially." Individual steps may be listed only once each submission year, but may be engaged in multiple times" *
The points listed are accumulated yearly. Clubs with activities totaling 35 points or more will be awarded certificates during the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention.

There are 8 topics on the Ladder:

- Increasing Club enrollment by 10% in the Legislative Action Center.
- Requesting a proclamation from a "decision maker" (city council, mayor, state or U.S. congressman or governor) recognizing, for example, a "week "or a "day" promoted in one of our CSP's, a club anniversary, etc.

- Have a program on GFWC's Resolutions, explain how and why they're created and adopted.
- Invite a local decision maker to discuss issues relevant to your community at a meeting.
- Identify a GFWC Resolution and develop a project to support the Resolution.
- Act on a current resolution germane to GFWC/State (email, letter to the editor, speak at a local government meeting, or create a coalition within your community).
- Draft a Resolution that you submit to your State for consideration.
- Visit a State legislator or staff to advocate on an important issue of your choice.

The points breakdown is listed in the club manual. The completed form must be emailed no later than March 15, 2026.

*GFWC Legislative Ladder 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual

Legislation Day – Tricia Duvall & Lynne Wherry

Save the date! Legislation Day will be February 16, 2026. We will meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church across from the Capitol at 9 am. There will be a buffet breakfast and 2 speakers. You will be able to meet with your Legislators and then head into the House or Senate for the general assembly session at noon. We hope to have a tour of the Governor's Mansion, but that is not set in stone yet.

All details will be sent out later in December with the reservation form. Mark your calendars now.

Hope to see you all there.

2025 SOUTHEASTERN REGION — October 23- 25, 2025

Just in case you have not heard, the GFWC Southeastern Region Meeting will be Thursday through Saturday night, October 23-25 at Hotel Roanoke. There are many opportunities throughout the meeting weekend for you to volunteer. The festivities will begin with tours in downtown Roanoke on Thursday, a dinner for our state, regional, and GFWC officers, plus others on Thursday evening; the meeting begins on Friday at 11 am and ends Saturday evening with a banquet. The busiest time for Virginia members will be Friday and Saturday. I have a listing of all the possible volunteering opportunities, and your District President has a copy also. Please contact your District President with your choices. Several of the possibilities include helping or donating items for at the hospitality desk, working with your district on your district assignments (See your District President for details), serving as hostesses at the meals, helping behind the scenes. There is a place for everyone and a chance to get to know fellow GFWC members. We look forward to seeing all of you October 23-25, 2025, at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA.

The hotel reservation link is <https://book.passkey.com/e/50925031> Guests have until September 22nd, to make their reservations. Currently, we have several king rooms available for Friday and Saturday nights.

You need to hurry; it is a very busy time at Hotel Roanoke due to a Virginia Tech home game on Thursday evening. If you cannot get a room at Hotel Roanoke, the Hampton Inn at 27 Church Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia may still have rooms available, and Hotel Roanoke will provide shuttle service between the 2 hotels.

Come join us, meet our GFWC International President and President-elect, and our fellow GFWC members from the Southeastern area.

District News

Alice Kyle District

Carol Pridgen, President

Colleen Barnes, Third Vice President Director of Junior Clubs

Ladies, if you were unable to come to the GFWC Virginia 2025 Conference in Staunton on August 8-9, all I can say is “I am so sorry, you missed lots of fun and laughter”. Beginning with Friday night’s Dinner and Pajama Party/Trivia Night, dressed in our P.J.’s (one question asked the most that night...” Do you really sleep in that?”) through Saturday’s Leadership workshop, “Lifting Up Our Leadership Skills to Soar to Success”, there were plenty of opportunities for laughing.

By now, most of the Alice Kyle District clubs have met and made plans for community service projects for the 2025-2026 club year. Some clubs may have already had their first meeting for the new club year. I hope all clubs have added Saturday, September 27, 2025, to their club’s calendar for the GFWC International Day of Service (IDS). This year, IDS is to help “End Domestic & Sexual Violence”; clubs can hold projects anytime during the week of September 21-27. Every action counts. For more information, go to the GFWC Member Portal for resources, toolkits, and project ideas to support your efforts. Whether your club is organizing a community event, partnering with a shelter, launching a supply drive, or holding a public forum, thoughtful planning will ensure your work is effective and lasting. Good Luck with all your club projects this year. I look forward to reading all about your new ideas in your club’s reports.

Opportunities have been planned for Alice Kyle District members to gather with old friends and maybe make some new friends, starting with the Alice Kyle Fall District meeting. Our Fall District meeting will be our Official State Officers’ visit. This meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2025, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Gladys, Virginia. Our host club will be the GFWC Brookneal Woman’s Club. In late October (22-25), Alice Kyle District members will partner with Northern District members to help host the Saturday night banquet for the Southeastern Region (S.E.R) meeting at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA. There will be plenty of other times for AKD members to volunteer during the S.E.R meeting. A bus trip to GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for the GFWC Headquarters Christmas Tour and the Women’s Military War Museum is scheduled for December 7, 2025. The cost of the trip is \$100 to be paid to Marlene Wine by November 15, 2025. Arrangements are being made for the bus to pick up AKD members in Roanoke, VA. Take care and thank you for continuing to put your “heart” into volunteering in your community..... see y’all in October.

The Juniors’ plans for the 2025-2026 club year, their main goal within the district, is to grow their membership. Farmville Junior Woman’s Club is working to revitalize, and the South Boston-Halifax Club will capitalize on last year’s growth to expand their reach in the community. The Juniors would also like to build partnerships with other local service groups and charity organizations to maximize the impact of their programs and fundraisers.

Blue Ridge District

Camilla Cabaniss, President

The clubwomen here in Blue Ridge have had a busy summer and are preparing for an even busier Fall!

We had an excellent group attend Summer Conference in Staunton in August. We are so proud of our two LEADS graduates, Linda Parker and Bobbie Peasley! Both are members of the GFWC Bedford Woman’s Club.

The GFWC Floyd County Woman’s Club is preparing for their annual Arts and Crafts Show. GFWC Bent Mountain Woman’s Club is nearing the completion of their garden and entryway at the Bent Mountain Center. The GFWC Roanoke

County Woman's Club has completed over 100 fidget sleeves and delivered them to nursing homes and classrooms. GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton held their summer picnic and exchanged ideas for new projects and ways to continue past projects this coming year. The GFWC Blacksburg Juniors had a membership social and have begun their diaper drive for the community clothes closet. The GFWC Bedford Woman's Club completed participating in a vender's fair and are planning a membership event in the next month. The GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club held a very successful purse auction to help fund their scholarships for the year! Busy "bees" in the Blue Ridge District!

Our Fall District meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28 in Christiansburg with the Blacksburg Juniors as our hostess. The project for the day will be raising funds for Heifer International to purchase bee hives for Heifer to distribute to farmers and families. This is such a sweet project!

Blue Ridge District is looking forward to seeing everyone from across the southeastern region at SER at Hotel Roanoke in October as GFWC Virginia hosts the conference. Blue Ridge will be full of fall colors in October! Travel safely and see you in October!!

Lee District

Kelly Lane, President

Danielle Basham, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

Many Lee District members attended GFWC Virginia Conference held in Stanton August 8 and 9. The opportunity to enjoy dinner and play trivia Friday night in several categories was great fun. On Saturday, we had the chance to hear from GFWC Secretary, Dr. Susan Getty, several times throughout the day and learn project ideas from four panelist's presentations. Three Lee District members took advantage of attending GFWC Virginia LEADS on Sunday, August 10.

Lee District will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary during the Fall Meeting. Memorabilia over the last 100 years will be on display. GFWC Virginia President Susie Mowry and Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, Joanne Dixon, will be in attendance and be part of the day's festivities.

Many clubs have planned projects and programs in conjunction with GFWC International Day of Service on September 27 to end Domestic and Sexual Violence. We look forward to reading about the amazing projects each club uses to support this important focus.

Northern District

Yvonne Sening, President

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

A Season of Service

It's Fall, y'all! As the crisp autumn air begins to sweep through Northern Virginia, our District members are embracing the beginning of the Club season with renewed energy and purpose. Across the District, members are actively coordinating projects that enrich our communities and reflect the season's themes of growth, change, and giving.

First, what a blast we had at the recent GFWC Virginia Conference and VA LEADS seminar in Staunton! A big thank you to the amazing Shenandoah District for hosting a successful event. Attendees had a fantastic time exploring Staunton's historic, charming downtown, which was packed with great shops, restaurants, and museums. It was the perfect blend of learning, fellowship, and fun. We celebrated with a lively Pajama Party Trivia night, putting our GFWC knowledge to the test (some of us need to go back and study!). Members shared leadership insights and swapped exciting ideas for our

Community Service Programs and Advancement Projects. It was the perfect way to cap off a weekend of hard work and connection.

Speaking of meetings, don't forget to dust off your name tags—the Northern District Fall Meeting is just around the corner! This October 5th gathering in Centreville is more than a meeting; it's a celebration of our collective impact and a chance to reconnect, recharge, and commit to our mission.

Northern District clubs have a busy and impactful autumn, with projects that align with GFWC programs and support important local and national awareness campaigns. From suicide prevention to domestic violence awareness, science enrichment to senior outreach, our clubs are making a significant difference. As a district, we will participate in GFWC International Day of Service on September 27, 2025, with a focus on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention. Northern District clubs are collecting clothing to donate to the Virginia State Nurses Forensic Examiners Program at Sentara Hospital in Woodbridge, VA. Here is a snapshot of other Northern clubs' projects: A Team Witches to End Alzheimer's Walk in October; Halloween costume contests and membership tea recruitment; fundraisers to buy Christmas gifts for foster children; beautification projects; back-to-school backpack stuffing, science enrichment program for fifth graders, reading buddies, and treats for teachers.

Autumn is a time for gratitude and change. Let's embrace the season's spirit, giving thanks for the abundance around us and carrying that compassion and strength with us all year long. In recognition of Suicide Prevention Month (September) and National Bullying Prevention Month (October), continue promoting acceptance, inclusion, and kindness, for "kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." (Mark Twain)

Shenandoah District

Laura Coburn, President

This fall is a full schedule of events in Shenandoah. October 4, we will be hosted by Covington Woman's Club for the Fall District Meeting – A Day of Autumn Splendor. The district is participating in International Day of Service with a speaker from Magnolia Rose, an emergency shelter for rescued victims of sex trafficking. A collection of toiletries to benefit their shelter will be the service project. The Southeastern Region Conference will be attended by members of the district, some of whom will be first timers at an SER meeting. We will co-host with Blue Ridge District for the Friday luncheon and are gathering jack o lanterns to stuff with toiletries and snacks for our centerpieces, which will be donated to The Least of These, a homeless services organization in Roanoke. The Holiday Open House at the GFWC Headquarters in Washington DC will be our destination on a bus trip with Blue Ridge and Southwest Districts. It will be fun to meet the international officers, see the holiday decorations, and indulge in the goodies. We will make another stop at Arlington National Cemetery to visit the Women's Military Memorial which houses a museum. It promises to be a great trip.

Southside District

Julie Johnson, President

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

Summer in Southside was hot and humid! We are grateful that lower humidity and cooler nights are finally here. Many clubs continued with projects through the summer. GFWC Sedley WC held an event each month: in June, a Bingo fundraiser for new community banners; in July, their annual Veterans ceremony, focusing on Vietnam Vets, with a Veteran from another club as speaker; and in August, Bingo for residents of a local retirement community. To help fund their scholarships GFWC Tarrara WC made and sold cute snowmen at the GFWC VA Conference in Staunton. WC Windsor held a fun, personal membership event at a local Italian restaurant, sending prospective members home with information about their club and GFWC Virginia. GFWC James River JWC installed a new president; and participated

in their county's PG Ignite event, where they connected with over 1,000 teachers and staff. Riparian WC is collecting nonperishable foods for their local domestic violence program, plus collecting snacks for the youth victims coming in for counseling. GFWC Junto WC announced the recipient of their annual White Rose Award at their July pizza party. WC Smithfield helped at Bright Beginnings. Southside clubs are making plans to support the GFWC National Day of Service this month.

To plan for our October Fall District meeting in Emporia, the Board met in July and several of us met with the three hostess club presidents in August. We will welcome as our speaker Lindsey Gray, Regional Operations Manager of Safe House Project. This nonprofit works to combat human trafficking as well as support the victims. Clubs have been asked to bring to the meeting supplies for early childhood education to fill "Rosie the Riveter" flower pots for table decorations. These filled pots will then be taken to SER and used as table decorations for Saturday lunch. After SER the Southside clubs will receive a filled pot to give to a preschool of their choice.

Southwestern District

Amy DeWilde, President

JoBeth Wampler, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs



Welcome Fall!! I love the feel of cooler weather, the Fall colors, festivals, and of course Pumpkin everything!!

We had 9 wonderful ladies attend the Summer Conference in Stanton. Which was a lot of fun and very informative. Trivia and pajama night was a lot blast. We also had 3 members from Appalachian Leading Ladies Junior Woman's Club attend the Leads seminar as well. Southwestern District is super proud of these ladies. Congratulations Taylor Botic, Sandra Botic, and Miranda Lester.

The Southwestern ladies have been a little quiet but that's about to change. These ladies are gearing up for a very busy Fall season. I've been trying to keep track of all the festivals and projects that the clubs have going on. Festivals, craft shows, beauty pageants, dog pageants, delivering watermelons, member socials, supporting local food banks, harvesting squash and pumpkins, tower climbs, volunteering to raise awareness on Domestic Violence, and ladies night out events etc. One good thing about having another foot surgery is I get to be off so that I can attend a few of these.

Right around the corner is our annual Fall District meeting on Sept. 27 in Grundy. Which just happens to fall on GFWC National Day of Service. What a great way to spend the day with Federation Sisters.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the SER conference in October.

We got this!!

"Behind every great woman...is another great woman!"

Kate Hodges

Tidewater District

Jane May, President

Traditionally, Tidewater club activities are on hiatus during the months of July and August. However, not all club activities came to a grinding halt this summer. In July, we held an informational meeting which was attended by 62 club members. In August, the Tidewater District had 22 members attend the GFWC Virginia Conference in Staunton. Five of those members

attended and graduated from GFWC Virginia LEADS. At the conference Tidewater District issued the invitation to the 2026 GFWC Virginia Convention in Williamsburg.

Planning for the fall was also on our summer agenda. The Tidewater District has been busy preparing for our Fall District meeting. In support of the International Day of Service (IDS), our speaker will be from Transitions Family Violence Center. Also, district members are volunteering for the 2025 Southeastern District Region Conference (SER) in Roanoke. Fall is promising to be a busy time for Tidewater. Our winter will also be fun with a bus trip to the GFWC Holiday Open House in December.

Pictures



GFWC Board Meeting – Salt Lake City

GFWC Virginia Juniors at GFWC Convention in Atlanta



2025 CONFERENCE





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THE VIRGINIA CLUBWOMAN
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