

The Virginia Clubwoman



MARCH 2026



President's Message

Susie Mowry

president@gfwcvirginia.org

The President's Message—

It is hard for me to imagine that this year is going so fast! Valentine's Day has come and gone, and for those of you on the board, can you believe we already held the mid-winter meeting? With all the cold weather, at least, we have been forced to stay inside, and what better time to be in than REPORTING. As always, your reports are incredible. The ideas you have come up with and the impact that you are making in your communities are awe-inspiring. From many of the reports I have read, your communities recognize your value, and partnerships have been developed to address inequities. Some of these partnerships have been long-standing, while others are brand new. I congratulate you on recognizing the value of working together. Thank you so much for your attention to the state project, Early Childhood Education. Though you may not see the results right away, I hope you understand the significance of the work you are doing in this field. Giving a child of that age books, STEM projects, sensory boards, and, more importantly, your time can hopefully achieve the outcome of a more successful life in the years to come. You can be proud of the work that you have done and the lives you have touched.

We have been working very hard on the upcoming convention that will be held in Williamsburg from April 24 through 26th. After reading the evaluations from the last few state meetings, we have again filled this agenda with a lot of content. There will be another Idea to Reality panel covering Leadership, Membership, Arts and Culture, and possibly Advocates for Children. Since the convention starts on Federation Day, there will be a special group of ladies who will talk about their relationship with GFWC. That panel will be "Why We Belong: The Heart of Federation Day." The attendees at the Happy 250th American Revolution Anniversary luncheon will hear about some of the Women of the Revolution. As always, there will be awards galore and celebrations of Past Presidents and Past Junior Directors. Please consider joining us as we come together to learn from what we have done in the past and plan for what we will do in the upcoming administration. The installation of the new officers will be something special and a great cause for optimism that GFWC Virginia will be in great hands in the future.

Many of the clubs in Virginia use various forms of social media, and it is a wonderful way to see what your club and others across the state are doing. More importantly, it is an amazing way for others, not affiliated with your club, to see what you are doing. This is a valuable way for us to get away from the old adage that "we are the best kept secret." If you don't appreciate this, let me give you an example. In January, the board meeting of GFWC was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ladies from across the country convened to learn and conduct the business of our federation. One of the speakers used pictures that she took from social media to illustrate her point about the value of telling your story. One picture she used was of a clubwoman telling her personal story through a picture. The woman was Lori Rocker! One of the next pictures was of a club telling a story of one of their projects at a food bank. That picture was of The Sedley Woman's Club of the Southside District! Two examples, both of Virginia clubwomen. Believe me, there is value in social media, and people are looking and getting the "picture" of what our GFWC Virginia clubs are doing.



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The Virginia Clubwoman

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 Send articles, photos and newsletters

GFWC magazine assumes no responsibility for advertisements in this magazine unless they are published in conjunction with an official GFWC/GFWC Virginia program.

A minimum of 6 issues are published during the 2024-2026 administration.

Deadlines:
 June 5, 2026

ON THE COVER

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Congratulations to Jessica Thomas, who will be representing Virginia at the upcoming GFWC LEADS in Scottsdale, Arizona. And a special thank you to the other applicants who were not chosen this time. I encourage you to apply again.

I hope you know that your time, your energy, and your caring spirit make a difference in our communities. Thank you for all you have achieved, and thank you for all you will accomplish in the future. Hope to see you at our convention in Williamsburg.

Susie

Joanne Dixon
GFWC Virginia Third Vice President
Director of Junior Clubs
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The GFWC Virginia Juniors have truly been on the Ride of a Lifetime during this administration. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading your reports and continue to be amazed by the incredible work of our Virginia Juniors.

We will be collecting items for Advocates for Children during Convention to support the Southside and Tidewater Districts. Additional details, including a list of specific collection items, will be shared prior to our April meeting.

Join us for the Come and Knock on my Spokes Marjorie Branch Banquet at Convention on Friday night, where bold prints, flowing caftans, and oversized jewelry set the tone for a night of retro fun! Inspired by the unforgettable Helen Roper from Three's Company, guests are encouraged to embrace their inner diva with vibrant 70s flair — think statement necklaces, big sunglasses, and fabulous wigs. This themed evening is all about laughter, friendship, and carefree confidence as we gather around the table for great food, festive drinks, and plenty of sassy style. So slip into your most colorful caftan and join us for a dinner party that promises fun, flair, and a whole lot of Mrs. Roper fabulousness! I look forward to seeing you all in Williamsburg for the GFWC Virginia Convention 2026!

Cynthia Baroody
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Hello GFWC Virginia Club Members!

We hope you stayed safe and warm during those brutally cold winter days and now are looking forward to springtime and warmer temperatures. At this time, your club and district reports should be complete, and we look forward to reading about the leadership activities and projects you've accomplished to enhance your skills. We hope the knowledge you have gained has helped you and your club members to want to step up into leadership positions at the club, district and state levels. As we have continued to stress, leadership is demonstrated through actions, not just holding a position.

Good leaders recognize their own style – whether action-oriented, analytical, collaborative, or reflective – and adapt as needed. Effective leaders are attentive listeners and take time to reflect on goals and methods. Leaders establish clear goals for themselves and their teams, guiding everyone toward shared success. They help others develop leadership skills and

motivate club members to step up into leadership roles. A key element to remember is that as a leader you help empower others. “Empowered Women – Empower Women”.

As stated in the GFWC Leadership Winter Newsletter, some goals for a new year are to remain focused and realistic. Keep things simple by developing one to three main goals rather than many that leave everyone exhausted and discouraged. Look for those teachable moments and invite participation. Encourage growth and reflection – what worked and what needs to be revised. Set benchmarks to help measure progress and adjust when necessary. Our leadership goals are more than reports and awards they are your influence on future leaders who will follow you tomorrow.

We are happy to announce Jessica Thomas has been selected as GFWC Virginia’s representative to GFWC LEADS. She will travel to Scottsdale, Arizona to participate in the national seminar during the GFWC Convention June 26-29, 2026. You will have the opportunity to congratulate Jessica at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Williamsburg in April. Congratulations Jessica Thomas!

Carolyn Fellers

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Alaina Chaffee

GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman

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Welcome 2026! A new year for the growth of our clubs. Now that you have recruited new members and are working to retain them. What are your plans to keep them engaged and involved this year? Have you met to hold a strategy session to review what went well in 2025 and how you can keep the momentum going? Are new projects on the horizon? If so, discuss how each member can be part of the project.

Are your mentors working with the new members to help them acclimate to the procedures and processes your club follows? How about some fun time? Socials are just to get together and get to know each other better. Sharing past life experiences, working on a project together, and attending an event are great ways to learn, grow, and have an enjoyable time with your fellow clubwomen.

Please be sure to let us know who you have brought into your club. Using the online membership coupon at our website www.gfwcvirginia.org is a great way to do that. At the convention this year, we will recognize our top recruiters and award the star pins for those who have recruited five or more new members.

If you want to learn more about the recruiting stars program, visit www.gfwc.org using the digital library. Keyword, Stars, will help you find the information at their site.

Membership grants are available to clubs once per administration. If your club has not applied, be sure to do so. Also, check out the opportunities for membership grants at the gfwc.org site, too. Many opportunities are available to help us recruit and recognize our fellow clubwomen.

Let us know how we can assist your club. We are here and ready to help.

Thank you for all you do each day.



Lynne Wherry

GFWC Virginia Treasurer

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Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Secretary/Treasurer

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Hard to believe this administration will be coming to an end in a few short months. But there is a lot to do before the end of June. With dues and contributions collected, we're now looking ahead to the Convention in April.

Just a reminder—April 15th is the deadline to submit supplemental dues for members who joined after the initial January 25th deadline. The Supplemental Dues Form is on the GFWC Virginia website: <https://gfwcvirginia.org/reporting%2C-dues%2C-%26-awards>.

As a club Treasurer, staying organized is essential. Keep your financial records up to date throughout the year—it's much easier than trying to sort everything out at the end.

Make sure all payments are clearly documented. When writing checks, always use the memo line to note what the payment is for. This helps you track where club funds are going and makes year-end reports much easier to prepare.

You may also want to set up a designated drop box or simple form for members to submit checks and payments. Another helpful tip is to keep a basic payment log at meetings so members can see if they owe money and pay it on the spot.

If you ever have questions, whether at the club or district level, we're here to help. You can also check your by-laws or standing rules for guidance.

We're your resource—please reach out anytime!

Parliamentary Notes

Sarah Entsminger, PRP

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As another snowstorm is predicted, the desire to sit in front of the fire with a cup of tea is ever-present. However, it is a perfect time to clean house, specifically a good time to put your club and district records in order. Each club and district should have an official record book that includes all of your governing documents (kept current), any notices or letters from the IRS or local government regarding taxes, business licenses, or permission to raise funds within the Commonwealth, as well as minutes of your meetings. Your records are extremely important, not just for you to be able to access when there are questions, but also to provide any requested information to the IRS or to the court in the event of a lawsuit. These documents and minutes comprise the "official documents" of your organization and must be maintained with diligence and respect.

Spring District Meetings will bring elections of officers for the next administration. As you are cleaning out and organizing your documents, consider which will be the most helpful for the next person to assume your position. Make plans now for meeting with the next officer to turn over the files, discuss any ongoing concerns, and relay any helpful information. Working to ensure a peaceful and productive transition is the best way to lead any organization.

A number of clubs and districts have contacted me about "missing" documents or minutes. Please do not let any more time elapse in your quest to gather and maintain these documents. It may require a little research to determine who was an officer at the time of a break in the records and request assistance in obtaining those documents. It would be a good investment to consider offering dinner, tickets to an event, or even a good bottle of wine as an enticement for others to help in the search for records.





Joyce Jolly
GFWC Signature Program Chairman
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The goal of the GFWC Signature Project is to increase awareness of and to help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in our local communities. As champions of the cause, club members should advocate for survivors and educate both club members and members of the general public. The current media blitz about the Epstein files in national headlines, on television news channels, and on social media websites is certainly raising the awareness of the general public about the existence of sexual abuse of underage females by wealthy, influential, and politically connected individuals.

According to the CDC, in 2024 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys are estimated to experience sexual abuse during childhood. Sexual assault has a negative impact on the educational outcomes of the victims: declines in academic performance and increased absenteeism, higher rates of dropping out of school due to trauma or stigma, and difficulty focusing on schoolwork due to anxiety, PTSD, or depression.

Schools can play a vital role in preventing sexual abuse by implementing age-appropriate sexual education programs focusing on consent and boundaries, training school staff to recognize and respond to signs of abuse, and encouraging bystander intervention through peer education and advocacy. *

Partnering with school administrators and helping to fund programs in the local school districts would be a way for clubs to advocate and educate.

Listed below are some national organizations that provide immediate support, guidance, and information.

- National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800- 656-4673 www.rainn.org
- Child Help National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4453 www.childhelp.org
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1-800843-5678 www.missingkids.org

*Information taken from “Break the Cycle”

Terry Putnum
GFWC Virginia Affiliates Coordinator
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The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to fund research and combat polio. Eddie Cantor, a radio personality of the day, coined the name “March of Dimes” as a fundraising gimmick for this cause. Americans were encouraged to send dimes to the White House to help in the research that resulted in the polio vaccine. GFWC became involved with March of Dimes upon its founding. Club members saw this movement as part of their effort to improve the health of children and their mothers. They were active in the “Mother’s March on Polio” and GFWC Juniors focused on the Salk Vaccine Project bringing anti-polio vaccine to communities. This partnership continued as the March of Dimes shifted its focus to preventing birth defects and premature births. After the eradication of polio, March of Dimes moved its focus to maternal and infant health issues. Today, GFWC works with March of Dimes to create positive outcomes for growing families: Healthy Moms, Strong Babies. This partnership advocates for mothers and their babies, supporting the need for safe and healthy outcomes for pregnancies regardless of wealth, race, gender, or geography. The US is among the “most dangerous high-income nations” for childbirth. Each year in the US, 1 in 10 babies are born preterm. March of Dimes is involved in lifesaving research, education, and advocacy with the goal to end preventable preterm birth and infant death, along with maternal health risk and death, ensuring both healthy babies and mothers. It is also involved after preterm births which often result in NICU hospital stays. NICU Family Support is a program that partners with hospitals and their staff and supports families as they navigate both time in

the hospital and transition home.

In the **2025 March of Dimes Report Card**, Virginia received a **C- grade** for its maternal and infant health outcomes due to:

- **Preterm Birth Rate:** 10.1% of babies were born preterm in 2024 (9,467 births), ranking Virginia **24th** among U.S. states and territories.
- **Infant Mortality:** 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023.
- **Maternal Mortality:** 33.4 deaths per 100,000 live births, ranking Virginia **42nd out of 48** reporting states.
- **Maternity Care Deserts:** 30.8% of Virginia counties are considered maternity care deserts, meaning they lack hospitals with obstetric care or specialized clinicians.

Virginia clubs can raise funds and donate to this organization through A March for Babies A Mother of a Movement taking place in Richmond on May 9, 2026. Members can advocate for Congressional action on the health of moms and their babies through GFWC. Recently, clubs were asked to urge Congress to enact the bipartisan PREEMIE Reauthorization Act to expand research, education, and intervention strategies related to preterm birth. A simple “click to send a letter” was provided by GFWC to contact representatives. Clubs can find ways to be involved with this Affiliate by going to the GFWC website, logging in on the member portal, and searching “Digital Library>Affiliates.”

Lynn Osborne
GFWC Virginia Communications and
Public Relations Chairman
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Your club website is the public’s first AND LAST impression of you and your members! It is always open, 24/7, for all to see, so please make sure it is up to date and contains fresh and timely content. If you can, find someone in your club who knows how to create and/or maintain a website. And if you cannot, this is definitely something you will want to invest in with a third-party.

- Appoint a website chairman for your club and/or State Federation.
- Create a club email account (i.e., GFWCClub@yahoo.com, GFWCStudyClub@gmail.com) and assign someone to check it regularly.
- Identify a technology solution that works for your level of knowledge. Possibilities include working with a website developer or designer; securing assistance from tech-savvy friends, family, or volunteers from local schools looking for practical experience, or running and maintaining the website on your own.
- Secure a domain name that clearly portrays your name and includes GFWC. (i.e., www.GFWCFlorida.org, www.GFWCWarrenJWC.org).
- Link to www.GFWC.org to show that your club/State Federation is a part of GFWC.
- Include your club’s website address in all printed materials, including press releases, business cards, brochures, fliers, and posters.
- Provide the following information on your website:
 - o A calendar of meetings, project-related activities, and other club/State Federation events.
 - o Club/State Federation history, noting important milestones and accomplishments, officers, past presidents, and other achievements.
- Develop a plan for updating the website and share the responsibilities for writing new content.



CPR TIP! A well-designed website is the single best way to attract new members and donors to your club, as everyone will visit it before joining or doing business with you.

(This article was taken from the GFWC Effective Communication Tools, 2020-2022)

Gloria Worrell
GFWC Virginia Endowment Chairman
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So happy the cold weather is almost over, and looking forward to warmer days ahead. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Endowment Chairman for this administration. The State Convention is approaching, and this will be your final opportunity to visit my table, meet with me, and contribute to the Endowment. If you are a Bud and discontinue your payments, any amounts previously paid will be considered donations to the endowment. Make plans now to upgrade your pin. Whether you are Bud, Topaz, or an Emerald, please think about making a contribution. Once again, we will be holding a Dogwood Dollar Raffle. The winner—or winners if proceeds exceed \$500—may upgrade their Dogwood pin or assist others in upgrading.

All proceeds collected from contributions, including those made at the State Convention and through initiatives such as the Dogwood Dollar Raffle, are dedicated to ensuring the continued operation and success of GFWC Virginia. Your generous support helps maintain our organization for years to come, preserving our mission and allowing us to serve our members and communities effectively.

Carol Outten
GFWC Virginia HOBY Coordinator
hoby@gfwcvirginia.org



Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership
Teaching students how to think, not what to think, since 1958.

Ladies of GFWC Virginia, greetings from HOBY. The HOBY Virginia Staff is working to finalize the agenda for the 2026 HOBY State Leadership Seminar to be held at James Madison University, May 29th to May 31st. To date, there are 166 Ambassadors registered to attend. The Seminar Service Project is being developed, but I have a preliminary list of items requested by the Seminar Director and her team. In the past, you have been extremely generous in providing in-kind donations in support of the Ambassadors. The List is as follows:

- White foam board (~20"x30") used for Team Signs -- Here's an example:
 - o <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Pen-Gear-White-Foam-Board-20-x-30-New/5347546821?wmlspartner=wlpa&selectedSellerId=0>
- Walmart or Amazon gift cards (to purchase other needed supplies)
- Forever stamps (to mail thank you notes)
- Paint sticks (Used for making Team Signs)
- Individually packaged snacks (please NO NUTS) -- That do not expire before May 31st!
- Ziploc bags (sandwich size)

In their Own Words: Each year upon completion of the Seminar, Ambassadors are asked to write a sentence or two addressing their Seminar experience and what advice they might give to future Ambassadors. Here is a sample of their responses:

- Take every chance you have to get to know your team members, it will improve group work and compatibility.
- Although you may begin the weekend by asking what you are doing here, by the end you will leave inspired to make a difference.
- Do not be afraid to speak and come out of your comfort zone. Don't let your thoughts be restricted by judgements or limitations. This is an experience where you can set yourself free and dig down to determine the person you are and your purpose/vision.
- You must allow your mind to be open and allow yourself to let HOBY teach you about the many impacts of a leader. Anyone can be a leader if you put your head into it.

- You're going to see a lot of different perspectives that will change your view of leadership.

As you might have concluded from these comments, HOBY believes that all students have the potential to lead. The seminars bring students together across different backgrounds, cultures, and communities. These students discover a newfound sense of awareness, confidence, connection, and purpose.

Thank you to the Ladies of GFWC Virginia for your generosity and support
SENDING HOBY HUGS!!!

Nancy Vadersen

GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 State Project Chairman

stateproject@gfwcvirginia.org

Reading for enjoyment is the single biggest predictor of a child's future happiness and success. Studies show that children's reading for enjoyment in the US is in rapid decline. What can parents and grandparents do to help?

Look at the pictures on each page of a book that you are reading to your preschooler. Ask questions such as: What is happening in the book? How can you tell? What do you see going on in this picture? Let the child use the pictures to guide their thoughts and imaginations. Read the book aloud to the child. Ask questions that connect with the book. How many balloons are on this page? Why do you think this character is so angry at her little brother? Use different voices as you read, reflecting the emotions of the written words. Make connections to the text. Ask the child to act out a scene, draw a picture, or verbally explain their favorite part of the book. Expand vocabulary. Pick out at least two words from the story that the child would not know. Talk about the words and what they mean. Show them examples in real life. Write the words on a piece of paper and use them in a few sentences. This will help expand the child's vocabulary.

Check out the Raising Readers website, www.joinraisingreaders.com. This is a national, evidence-based early literacy program for children from birth to age 5, designed to build daily home reading routines. Happy reading!

Hope Royer

Women's History and Resource Center

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In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, VA250 has partnered with 70 premier historic destinations in Virginia to launch a first-of-its-kind statewide passport program. The **Virginia 250 Passport** is a history travel guide, discount book, and 250th keepsake! Now through December 31, 2026, participants can collect unique stamps at 70 historical sites and museums across the Commonwealth, receive special admission pricing, and enter to win prizes.

The 64-page commemorative booklet features descriptions of the 70 participating museums and historic sites across five regions of the Commonwealth: Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Southwestern Virginia, and Tidewater. Travelers can collect unique stamps while visiting each passport site. Once they have secured a stamp in their passport, they can receive up to a 15% discount at future participating locations that charge admission. Collecting at least five stamps makes them eligible to enter the prize drawing. Prizes will be drawn in December 2026 and include yearlong museum memberships and cash awards up to \$2,500.

Passports **will be available free of charge** at signature sites — the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, Monticello, and the Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown — as well as at the VA250 Mobile Museum, select VA250 events and all 12 Virginia Welcome Centers located at gateways along interstate highways. A total of 250,000 copies will be distributed. Click here for more information on the **Virginia 250 Passport** adventure: <https://va250.org>, <https://virginiahistory.org/virginia-250-passport>.



Carol Guilliams-Mills and Florence Powell
GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Chairmen
artsandcrafts@gfwcvirginia.org

By now, all the District Writing Contest entries are with Carol Guilliams-Mills being judged. Thank you for your entries. There will be in a notebook at the GFWC Virginia Convention to peruse.

Clubs are holding their visual arts, needlework, and craft contests. The first-place club winners go to the District Contest (except photographs which, go from club to state). Please send the winners' cards to the District Chairman immediately after the club contest. Then immediately after the District Contest, send the district winners' cards to Carol Guilliams-Mills, 1358 East Drive SW, Roanoke, VA 24015. Card 1 should be signed by the club and district chairmen. Card 2 stays with the item. Classifications for members are professional, semiprofessional, and amateur. It is recommended that the person bringing the winners to Convention have a list of the items so they know what they brought and picked up. Please plan to enter them at the scheduled time in the Convention agenda. There is only one district winner per category/classification. Photograph cards are sent to Carol from the club, and the photos are brought to Convention to be judged. Please have the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver if the member wants to enter the State winner in the GFWC contest, and follow the contest rules about the label.

As always, we need assistance at Convention. Please let us know if you wish to help. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, artcontest@gfwcvirginia.org.



Helen Hill
GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman
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Another year has come to an end for all our clubs. You have sent your report and are waiting to hear which clubs won awards. We will have new Presidents for our clubs, District, and State. There will be new chairmen as well. Be sure you collect all your paperwork and have it ready for the next chairman. She will greatly appreciate it.

Let us look at what clubs did last year and what activities members enjoyed. Did your club collect art supplies for the schools? Did your club hold a student art show in March? Most club members enjoy making cards for many events and groups. Does your club offer a scholarship for Art or Music? What did you do for your members? Go to a play, hold a dinner? Recognize a member of the year? What did the club members enjoy most? This is why we do all those reports.

State Chairmen will select outstanding projects and recognize clubs for their work. A list is compiled of the outstanding club projects. Club Presidents give the lists to your new chairmen. So another year begins.

Let us thank all members for their time and expertise. I thank you for allowing me to serve as your state Arts & Culture Chairman. I hope I answered your questions and addressed your concerns about the Arts.

One final note, this comes under Culture. This July 4th, our nation will be 250 years old! Would you have stood up and acted as many did? Would you have pledged your life, your fortune, and your sacred honor? The ones signing the Declaration of Independence did. Many others picked up their guns and defended our new nation. Samuel Adams and John Hancock had a price on their heads. Two of the signers died on July 4, 1826: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. See what History you and your club can make this July 4th.



Sue Trussell

GFWC Virginia Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

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Engage. Serve. Lead.

As your club calendar fills with meetings, projects, and community events, spring offers a renewed opportunity to deepen your impact through meaningful civic engagement and outreach. This season of growth and fresh beginnings is the perfect time to step forward with intention and visible service.

Consider how each gathering or initiative can extend beyond fellowship and become an active expression of GFWC's commitment to community. Partner with local law enforcement or emergency personnel to host a community safety or disaster preparedness program as we enter storm season. Organize a neighborhood clean-up, park beautification day, or community garden project that encourages environmental stewardship and civic pride.

Spring is also an ideal time to support vulnerable populations. Coordinate a hygiene kit or sock drive for shelters, volunteer at a local food pantry during high-need months, or assemble "Birthday Bags" to bring joy to families facing hardship. Clubs might also create appreciation baskets for first responders or organize a service day supporting local veterans and military families.

Educational outreach remains a powerful tool. Invite speakers to address topics such as identity theft prevention, elder fraud awareness, human trafficking prevention, or mental health resources for veterans. Providing timely information empowers citizens and strengthens community resilience.

This active season is more than a full schedule — it is an opportunity to engage with purpose, serve with compassion, and lead by example. When we intentionally connect our energy and enthusiasm with the needs around us, we demonstrate the true heart of GFWC service.

Let's make this spring not only productive, but impactful.



Ilia Desjardins

GFWC Virginia Education and Libraries Chairman

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"Books are the eyes of the blind. They reveal to us the glories of the light-filled world, they keep us in touch with what people are thinking and doing, and they help us to forget our limitations. With our hands plunged into an interesting book, we feel independent and happy." Helen Keller

Clubwomen are credited with organizing and funding 75% of public libraries that exist today! They helped develop mobile book services for rural areas and financially supported metropolitan area libraries. But did you know they also helped support libraries for the blind? Large cities like Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. had libraries for the blind as early as 1890, and the Chicago Library received a collection of embossed books from a local women's club in 1894. Clubwomen helped create Braille books in the 1920s to assist with the literacy programs for wounded soldiers who were blinded by mustard gas during The Great War. The Library of Congress established the National Library Service for the Blind in 1931, following lobbying efforts by Helen Keller and the American Foundation for the Blind. An article in the GFWC Clubwoman in February 1935 entitled "How Your Club May Help the Blind to Read" promoted the Talking Book program, and one of the Junior Aims for the 1936-37 administration was the procurement of Talking Book Machines (record players).

Luckily, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) still exists! The program is an audio book and braille service for people who are blind, have low vision, a vision impairment, or have a physical disability that prevents

them from reading printed books. Anything from stroke paralysis to severe arthritis to macular degeneration can qualify a person to receive services. If you or a loved one, anywhere in the country, thinks audio books might be a good fit, check out www.loc.gov/nls/ for a library near you. Don't let a diagnosis prevent you from reading! And as with all library services, it's completely free!

How do I know this? I love to research history, I'm a clubwoman, and I run a network library for the blind!



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!

In 2025 GFWC Virginia ESO readers read over 815 books, participated in bimonthly book discussions, and added 39 new pledges! Several readers upgraded from "pledge" to "member" and earned their ESO pins!

The next Book Club Discussion will be March 17 at 7:30 pm, and the discussion will be about any book you choose in the category of "biography, autobiography, or memoir". It was suggested to listen to an audio book narrated by the author to get a different first-hand perspective in their own voice. All club women are welcome to join the discussion! The link will be emailed out to current ESO participants, but if you are interested in learning more, please send an email to ESO@GFWC-Virginia.org



Emily Amick

GFWC Virginia Environment Chairman

environment@gfwcvirginia.org

Winter swept across this country with an icy embrace, bringing frigid temperatures to many across the country. Let us all look forward to a sustainable spring. For those who celebrate Easter, consider reusing tote bags or old backpacks as an egg/treat bucket. Use shredded newspaper or magazines instead of plastic Easter grass. Replace plastic eggs with cardboard ones. For those who don't celebrate Easter, think of spring as new beginnings. Plant wildflowers or herbs in your garden. Visit a local park and identify native plants. If you bring your children, have them write/draw what they see and turn it into a rainy day craft. You could even bake spring-themed treats, like carrot cake bites or lemon pie, and share them with friends or family.



Maureen Mike

GFWC Virginia Legislation and Public Policy Chairman

legislation@gfwcvirginia.org

Congress approved a spending package on February 3, 2026, with funding through September 2026. These will affect several legislative priorities supported by GFWC members through the Legislative Alert Center (LAC).

Two of the programs are listed below:

Funding for the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** grant was increased to \$7 million above what was in the FY 2025, for a total of \$720 million. This will provide survivor safety, access to services, and justice for survivors of domestic, dating, and sexual violence, as well as stalking. The funds help with services such as shelters, legal assistance, rape crisis centers, and counseling for survivors. Communities are using funds for prevention programs and 24-hour hotlines. Law enforcement uses them for trauma-informed training. This training gives LEO's (law enforcement officers) education on how trauma affects memory, behavior and emotions, de-escalation, and interactions for a victim-centered approach, as well as addressing the needs of officers experiencing high levels of trauma/stress with these situations to help in reducing their own trauma. HUD was allotted \$52 million for housing assistance to assist these victims.

The **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** received \$1.95 Billion, with 5% set aside for tribal programs. The fund is financed through criminal fines and penalties from convictions in federal courts, not taxpayer dollars. Areas covered by these funds include victim support compensations and assistance programs, such as domestic violence shelters, child advocacy, and rape crisis centers and other child sexual abuse treatment programs.

Members are encouraged to continue participating in the LAC as our advocacy efforts are making an impact.

District News

Blue Ridge District Camilla Cabaniss, President

The Blue Ridge District has survived the 2025 reporting season and a huge ice and snowstorm! We are very proud of ourselves! We are looking forward to Spring!

All the clubs in Blue Ridge did a wonderful job with their reports for their work in all areas for 2025. I was amazed at the number of projects, the hours our club women volunteered, the dollars donated, and the giving hearts of in-kind gifts. The lives we touched in our communities were incredible!

Nine members of the GFWC Bedford Woman's Club and the Blue Ridge District President attended Legislative Day in Richmond in March.

As we move into the 2026 adventures, the Blue Ridge Spring District meeting is being planned with GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club and GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club being our hostesses. We are looking forward to a day of fun and fellowship on April 11. GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club and the GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton are preparing to review applications for their annual scholarships. GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club is beginning plan for the pinwheel garden being "planted" in April. The GFWC Blacksburg Junior Woman's Club is stocking their "Cinderella's Closet" to help any young lady or gentleman have attire for this spring's proms.

Blue Ridge District will blossom this spring and the busy bees in the district will continue to pollinate our communities with many projects and programs designed to help others in many ways.

Lee District Kelly Lane, President Danielle Basham, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

We look forward to celebrating at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2026. We will be celebrating awards, presenting a check to Alzheimer's Association, and memorializing Virginia Darnell as a Past Lee District President. We will also hold both General and Junior installations.

Many Lee District members will be attending the GFWC Virginia Convention in Williamsburg on April 24- 26, 2026. Members look forward to celebrating Federation Day and other festivities during the convention.

Several Lee members will be traveling to Scottsdale, AZ for the GFWC Convention.

Northern District

Yvonne Sening, President

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

How do you like to celebrate? Do you commemorate the occasion with your favorite adult beverage, or splurge on a nice dinner with friends or family, or perhaps you uncork that special wine you have been saving for a special occasion? No matter how you do it, break out your party shoes; it is time to celebrate the GFWC Virginia Northern District 2025 season! Congratulations ladies! You have done it again! Northern District (ND) Clubs completed 1,030 projects, volunteered 58,151.55 hours, donated \$201,470.92, and made in-kind donations totaling \$175,467.84. WOW!! To top it all off, Clubs raised a whopping \$143,357.42 through fundraising activities. Northern District Clubwomen exemplified what it means to be a GFWC member with all your wonderful, selfless volunteer work performed throughout the 2025 reporting season!

Clubs supported GFWC's special programs, including Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, GFWC Juniors' Advocates for Children, GFWC Virginia's State Project "Early Childhood Education", and the Northern District Project "Be Kind; Mental Health Matters", as well as GFWC Affiliate Organizations, including Canine Companions, Alzheimer's Association, Operation Smile, Heifer International, Shot@Life, and March of Dimes. Clubs came together for GFWC's National Day of Service, collecting clothing items for victims of domestic violence and donating to Forensic Science Examiner programs across the District. Manassas Woman's Club (WC), along with community members, dressed in costumes to "Cast a Spell to End Alzheimer's, raising \$2,450 for the Alzheimer's Association. Two clubs, Springfield WC and Dominion WC, are sponsoring puppies in training for Canine Companions. Clubs continue to support Boxes of Basics, supporting local communities' younger population, and our Juniors partnered monthly with Backpack Buddies to pack food for food-insecure students in Loudoun County.

ND members supported GFWC's community service programs (CSP) across the board. Clubs hosted and supported art shows, taught arts and crafting classes, gave abundantly to local homeless shelters and food pantries, and recognized their community first responders, including police, firefighters, doctors, and nurses. The WC of Arlington continues its highly successful Helping Hands group, meeting weekly to create Mended Heart Pillows for heart patients. The Club also provides ongoing support to the Friends of Urban Agriculture in Arlington. ND Clubs supported local schools and pre-schools with numerous projects and volunteered at libraries, tutored and mentored students, as well as provided books to organizations in need. Northern District Clubs continue to be avid readers, with 5,122.75 hours in reported book club hours. Clubs provided 38 scholarships to college, trade school, or other higher education programs totaling \$47,862.50. Mary Ball WC began researching and developing a Community Impact Program for 2026, ultimately developing a grassroots School Readiness Initiative. Clubs remained committed to environmental causes by adopting parks and highways, recycling a variety of materials, and planting gardens for seniors. Come this spring, yellow tulips will be popping up across the District in support of mental health awareness. Within the Health and Wellness CSP, in addition to supporting mental health awareness, Clubs supported Alzheimer's awareness, Multiple Sclerosis, heart health, and provided comfort items to a diverse patient population. Herndon Fortnightly and Springfield created "Twiddle Muffs" for senior living centers and, Spotsylvania WC assisted a local center with party supplies for residents. The Juniors, supporting the ND's Third VP's project, encouraged members to take up rowing classes to promote healthy living and kick off a week of fundraising.

Clubs continue to stay in contact with members and the community, increasingly using social media platforms, as well as newsletters, websites, and email. ND members encourage members to take on leadership roles and members participate in leadership at every level of GFWC. Membership in the ND grew this past year from 735 members to 758 overall. The District has also added two new clubs this year, the Past President's Club and, most recently, GFWC Fairfax Juniors, Inc.

sponsored by the WC of Fairfax. Several of our Clubs will be celebrating BIG anniversaries this year, and we can't wait to celebrate with them!

Whew!!! What a year!! It has been said that “[v]olunteers are love in motion!” Thank you, Northern District, for your service and for loving your communities! Now it's time to celebrate! Pop open that bottle of bubbly, pour yourself a glass, and live it up! Well done, Northern District! Well done!

Shenandoah District

Laura Coburn, President

Shenandoah District members have been busy in recent months. The GFWC Holiday Open House was enjoyed by 7 members who took a van together. Greetings from International President Suellen Brazil and Junior Director Shannon Bailey was a special moment, followed by a tour of the mansion and the archives. On the same trip, we enjoyed a tour of the Lars Anderson House museum, which is located near the GFWC Headquarters. Anderson House is the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati. The tour focused on the history of the Gilded Age mansion as well as the history of leaders in the American Revolution, which dovetailed neatly with America 250 this year. A third visit that day was to the New Market Battlefield Visitor Center museum and café. Four members attended the Legislative Day at the state capital, including an interesting and informative program for our GFWC Virginia members at St Paul's Church, with speakers on the topics of Early Childhood Education in Virginia and America 250 in Virginia.

Clubs in Shenandoah had fun with projects, as well. Waynesboro/Augusta held a Cookie Walk fundraiser for scholarships in December. The Woman's Club of Greene County held its annual Christmas Mother and annual Bazaar in the fall/winter. Lexington Woman's Club held its annual Just Desserts tasting event and silent auction. Covington and Staunton Augusta Juniors both held ornament sales. Wayland had some fun bridge luncheons. Buena Vista and Wayland Woman's Clubs both held fun events for members in December. These activities will provide fuel for their community service projects.

Shenandoah District Spring Meeting will be April 11 in Ruckersville, hosted by the Woman's Club of Greene County, where 2026-2028 officers will be installed. And then on to Convention!

Southside District

Julie Johnson, President

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

Once again, reporting is finished, and Southside clubs will gather to celebrate during our Spring district meeting at Windsor Town Center on March 14. It will be an exciting day with the announcements of Arts & Crafts Show winners and award winners from reports, plus the election and installation of new officers. Also, we will celebrate the formation last fall of our newest club, GFWC Southside District Past Presidents Club. Through our district project, LifeNet Health, we have learned the importance of signing up online to become an organ and tissue donor. We will have one last gift-card basket raffle to raise funds to help LifeNet celebrate donor families. In support of our state project, members have been asked to bring indoor recess items for elementary school teachers to help them provide engaging indoor activities in limited space.

Southwestern District

Amy DeWilde, President

JoBeth Wampler,

Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs



Southwestern District is currently enjoying the thawing out stage of 2026. Nothing like a good snow storm turned ice storm

in the first month of the new year. Mother nature is definitely going to have to chill out for a while. Although she can be very unpredictable, moody, chaotic, and a little dramatic at times (we all can relate) she lets us know when the storms pass we can endure and regenerate after a destruction.

We have had a few district members reach a huge milestone. Polly Wirt and Tine Stout from Mattie Roundtree Stephenson, Brenda Lindsey and Ann McGrady from the Hillsville Woman's Club celebrated their 50 years of voluntary service. I was very honored and excited to be able to present them with their GFWC 50th year pin during their clubs Christmas dinners.



It has been inspiring to see members of the Southwestern District stepping into the spotlight through interviews on local television, where they are being recognized for the many meaningful contributions they make throughout our communities. Their dedication to service continues to reflect the heart, and mission of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



Across the district, clubs have been hard at work supporting important local causes. Generous donations were made to Harper's House, along with organized blood drives that are helping save lives. Members have also collected and distributed hats, blankets, and essential items such as toilet paper to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

In Pennington Gap, an exciting new campaign is being launched to honor the veterans of Lee County. This tribute will recognize the brave men and women who have served in the Armed Forces and will be featured in the The Powell Valley News.

District clubs have also shown their unity and support through awareness initiatives. Members proudly wore blue in solidarity for child abuse prevention efforts and wore red in recognition of National Wear Red Day to raise awareness for women's heart health.

Spreading love this season, one club created Valentine goodie baskets and donated them to the Elm Tree Group Home, bringing joy to adults with developmental disabilities.

As District President, I cannot fully express how grateful I am to serve such an extraordinary group of women. It is truly an honor to lead the Southwestern District and to witness firsthand the compassion, dedication, and servant hearts of our members. Each act of kindness, whether large or small represents the very best of what we stand for. I am incredibly proud of the work being accomplished and deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside these remarkable women.



Tidewater District

Jane May, President

Tidewater District GFWC Virginia clubwomen have been and continue to be busy. Their 2025 reports reflect a strong commitment and volunteer ethic to improve their communities and the lives of their neighbors. Clubs have not taken a break in the new year. They are busy planning spring festivals, card parties, spaghetti dinners, and fashion shows to raise funds. They continue to serve their communities as volunteers and, filling community needs.

At our Spring District meeting on March 21, 2026, we will recognize and celebrate those achievements. We will present

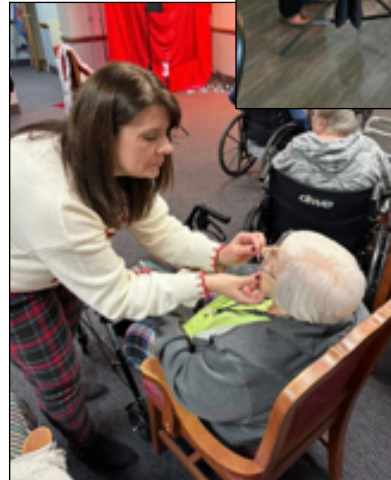
awards for 2025, outstanding club projects. Individual members will also be recognized for their achievements. Our Millie Brown Volunteer of the Year Award and the Recruiter of the Year awards will be presented as outstanding individual member achievements. Our meeting, will include a Memorial Service in remembrance of those we lost in 2025. This year, we are adding Women's History to our program. In recognition of Women's History Month, each district officer will select and present information on two GFWC women of history. We will also elect our 2026-2028 District Officers. Best of all – we will celebrate our Federation Friendship!

Club News

Glamour, Dignity, and Joy at Every Stage of Life

The GFWC Wytheville Woman's Club joined hands with a talented local photographer to bring something truly special to residents of area nursing homes. Through this heartfelt initiative, residents are treated to professional hair styling, makeup, and beautiful attire — culminating in elegant glamour portraits that celebrate their individuality and life stories. The transformation is more than physical. It is emotional. It is affirming. It is powerful.

For many residents, these sessions provide a rare opportunity to feel pampered, celebrated, and seen. Families treasure the portraits. Staff witness renewed confidence and radiant smiles. And participants are reminded that beauty, dignity, and joy do not fade with age. Because no matter where you are in life — at home, in a hospital, or in a care facility — **you deserve to feel special.**



Pictures



GFWC Virginia participants at GFWC Leadership Conference at Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



Tidewater District ladies at Legislation Day

CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia

(GFWC Virginia)

April 23-26, 2026

Doubletree by Hilton, Williamsburg, VA



2024-2026 GFWC Virginia Theme: "We Rise by Lifting Others"

CONVENTION THEME: "A Smooth Landing"

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

- 1-10 members – Club President, or her alternate and 1 additional delegate;
- 11-20 members – Club President, or her alternate and 2 additional delegates;
- 21-30 members – Club President, or her alternate and 3 additional delegates;
- 31-40 members – Club President, or her alternate and 4 additional delegates;
- 41-50 members – Club President, or her alternate and 5 additional delegates;
- 51-60 members – Club President, or her alternate and 6 additional delegates;
- 61-70 members – Club President, or her alternate and 7 additional delegates;
- 71-80 members – Club President, or her alternate and 8 additional delegates;
- 81-90 members – Club President, or her alternate and 9 additional delegates;
- 91-100 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. Registration fee is \$55 for attendees and must be submitted no later than **Friday April 3, 2026**. For registration submitted after April 3, please add \$10 per attendee for a total registration fee of \$65. **Electronic registration with Zeffy**. Detailed instructions are at the end of the Call. Special Note: Meals may be purchased individually OR may be purchased as a group for the entire weekend, with a discount as noted in Zeffy.

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

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations may be made by individual call-in no later than **Monday, March 23, 2026**. After that date, any additional reservation requests will be honored on a rate and space available basis only. Please call the hotel at (800) 222-8733, and ask for GFWC Va 2026 Conv guestroom group block. Guest room rates are: single or double per room: \$159 (standard king or queen), per day, plus taxes. Parking fee \$10 per night. You can also use this link to reserve your room <https://group.doubletree.com/8qwelv>

DoubleTree by Hilton – 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

ADMISSION TO ALL SESSIONS WILL BE BY BADGE ONLY
GFWC VIRGINIA – CONVENTION 2026

April 23-26, 2026
Doubletree by Hilton, Williamsburg, VA
50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA

Theme: “A Smooth Landing”

PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

Thursday, April 23, 2026

1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. Executive Board/Junior Executive Board Meeting
6:00p.m. – 8:30p.m. Executive Board/Junior Executive Board Dinner
9:00p.m. – til Junior Executive Board Meeting

Friday, April 24, 2026

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

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Friday, April 24, 2026

10:00a.m. – 1:15p.m. Convention Registration Open
10:00a.m. – 1:15p.m. Registration of Arts and Crafts
11:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. Vendors and Exhibitors Open

1:15p.m. Musical Prelude
1:30p.m. – 5:00p.m. “Celebrating Our Flight” **OPENING SESSION – Wear Federation Attire**
Procession of 2024-2026 District Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs, GFWC
Virginia Officers and Junior Officers, announced by Heather Craven,
GFWC Virginia Executive Secretary
Call to Order – Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President
Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of Colors – Queens Guard of The College of William and Mary
National Anthem
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
Thought for the Day – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
Collect – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
Welcome – Jane May, Tidewater District President
Welcome – Delegate Jessica L. Anderson, 71st District
Preliminary Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Credentials Chairman
Presentation of Convention Rules – Amy Riggs, Secretary
Presentation of Convention Program – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman
Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes – President Mowry
Introductions – Susie Mowry, President and Joanne Dixon, 3rd Vice
President/Director of Junior Clubs

Reports of GFWC Virginia Officers
Treasurer – Lynne Wherry
Secretary – Amy Riggs
3rd Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon
2nd Vice President – Carolyn Fellers
1st Vice President/President-elect – Cynthia Baroody
President – Susie Mowry
Report of Executive Board Action – Amy Riggs, Secretary

Report of Executive Secretary – Heather Craven

Reports of Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee – Lori Chevalier, Chairman

Bylaws Committee – Lori Rocker, Chairman

Endowment Committee – Gloria Worrell, Chairman

Resolutions Committee – Marlene Wine, Chairman

Scholarships Committee – Dale Fisher, Chairman

Strategic Planning – Trina Behbahani, Chairman

Report of Historian – Linda Beatty

Report of Nominating Committee – Lee Patterson, Chairman

Reports/Awards of GFWC Advancement Plans, Facilitated by Cynthia Barody and
Lynn Chapman

*Legislation & Public Policy – Maureen Mike, Committee Chairman

*GFWC Women’s History and Resource Center – Hope Royer, Chairman

*Fundraising – Miranda Lester, Chairman

*Leadership Awards – Cynthia Barody, Chairman Lynn Chapman,
Junior Chairman

*GFWC Virginia State Project – Nancy Vadersen, Chairman

Celebrating Federation Day – “Why We Belong: The Heart of Federation Day”

Announcements/Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

5:00p.m. – 5:45p.m. Convention Registration Open

6:00p.m. – 6:45p.m. **Reception Honoring Past Directors of Junior Clubs**
ALL CLUBWOMEN INVITED (Cash Bar)

6:45p.m. Musical Prelude

7:00p.m. – 9:30p.m. **“Come and Knock on Our Spokes” Marjorie Branch Banquet**
Attire: flowing caftans or muumuus in loud, colorful prints, i.e. Mrs. Roper attire. Wigs encouraged
Procession of GFWC Virginia Past Directors of Junior Clubs and 2024-2026 Joint
Executive Boards – Announced by Heather Dunn, Junior Courtesy
Chairman

Welcome – Joanne Dixon, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

Grace & Dinner

Entertainment

Tribute to GFWC Virginia Past Directors of Junior Clubs presented by Joanne
Dixon, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

Junior Special Awards – Introduced by Joanne Dixon

*Marjorie Branch Award – Tidewater District Juniors

*Shenandoah Award – Shenandoah District Juniors

*Southside District Award in Legislation – Southside District Juniors

Director of Junior Clubs Awards – Joanne Dixon

*Junior Club Outstanding Achievement Award

*Junior of the Year Award

*Junior New Clubwoman Award

*Junior Lifetime Achievement Award

Introduction of 2026 GFWC LEADS Participant – Cynthia Barody
Award of GFWC Special Program, Facilitated by Cynthia Barody
and Lynn Chapman

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

Presentation of Anniversary Certificates,
– Carolyn Fellers, 2nd Vice President/Membership Chairman
50/50 Drawing – Jessica Thomas, Junior Secretary/Treasurer
Announcements/Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman
View Arts and Crafts Exhibits

9:30p.m.

10:00p.m. - ? District & State Caucuses – (locations TBA at dinner)

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Red, White or Blue Casual Business Attire

7:00a.m. – 9:45a.m. Convention Registration Open

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. Vendors and Exhibitors Open

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

Grace – led by Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
Breakfast
GFWC Affiliates Awards facilitated by Susie Mowry,
GFWC Virginia President

9:30a.m. – 11:45a.m. **“Appreciating the Journey And Planning for The Future”**

BUSINESS SESSION/AWARDS

Call to Order – President Mowry
Service Program Awards, Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapman
*Arts and Culture – Helen Hill, Chairman
*Civic Engagement and Outreach – Sue Trussell, Chairman
*Education and Libraries – Ilia Desjardins, Chairman
ESO recognition – Ilia Desjardins, Chairman
*Environment – Emily Amick, Chairman
*Health and Wellness – Suzanne Williams, Chairman
Report of GFWC Virginia Headquarters – Judy Gough, Chairman
Updated Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Chairman
2026-2028 State Project Proposal – Cynthia Baroody, President-elect

10:15a.m. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Platform Change

10:30a.m. **“GFWC Virginia Juniors The Ride of a Lifetime” Junior Business
Session/Awards**

Introductions – Joanne Dixon, 3rd Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs
Junior Credentials Report – Michelle Clary, Credentials Junior Chairman
Report of the Junior Nominating Committee – Denise Price, Chairman
Election of Junior Officers
Reports of GFWC Virginia Junior Officers
Secretary/Treasurer – Jessica Thomas
Assistant Director of Junior Clubs – Lynn Chapman
Director of Junior Clubs – Joanne Dixon

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

Reports of Junior Standing and Special Committees

Budget and Finance – Jessica Thomas, Chairman

Standing Rules – Lynn Chapman, Chairman

New Business

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

Announcement of Junior Election Results

Junior Pledge

Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

11:30a.m. – 12:30p.m. Convention Registration Open

11:30a.m. – 12:15p.m. View Arts and Crafts Exhibits

All Dogwood Society members gather for photo at 12:00 p.m. – location TBA

12:15p.m. Musical Prelude

12:30p.m. – 3:15p.m. **“Happy 250th Anniversary American Revolution”**

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Lunch

Women of the Revolution – GFWC Virginia Executive Committee

Panel Discussion

Leadership

Membership

Arts and Culture

Announcement of Election Results

Update from Endowment Committee and recognition of Dogwood Society

Members – Gloria Worrell, Chairman

Awards of GFWC Special Program /GFWC Virginia Special Appointments,

Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapman

*GFWC Signature Program Domestic and Sexual Violence and Prevention

– Joyce Jolly, Chairman

Reports of Districts – Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapman

50/50 Drawing – Lynne Wherry, Treasurer

Announcements/Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

3:15p.m. – 4:45p.m. Pick-up Arts and Crafts Exhibits

3:15p.m. – 4:45p.m. District and Club Vendors

4:00p.m. – 4:45p.m. Installation Rehearsal

6:00p.m. – 6:45p.m. **Reception Honoring GFWC Virginia Past Presidents**

ALL CLUBWOMEN INVITED (Cash Bar)

6:45p.m. – 7:00p.m. Musical Prelude

7:00p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **“Pictures Tell the Story” Alice Kyle Installation Banquet**

Formal/Semi Formal Attire

Procession of GFWC Virginia Past Presidents and 2024-2026 Executive Board –

Announced by Heather Craven, Executive Secretary

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Dinner

Presentation of Junior Special Awards honoring GFWC Virginia Past Presidents,

facilitated by Joanne Dixon, 3rd Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs.

*Phyllis V. Roberts Award – Jaclyn Francis, Northern District

*Corinne Murray Award – Camilla Cabaniss, Blue Ridge District

*Shelby Paisley Hamlett Award – Camilla Cabaniss

Tribute to GFWC Virginia Past Presidents – Susie Mowry, President

Resolution in Honor of Past President Virginia Darnell presented by – Hope Royer,

Past GFWC Virginia President 2010-2012 & Kelly Lane, Past GFWC

Virginia President 2018-2020, current Lee District

Remarks of the 2024-2026 GFWC Virginia President and Director of Junior Clubs

Susie Mowry and Joanne Dixon

Procession of Incoming Officers, Executive Board and Junior Executive Board –

Announced by Sarah Entsminger

Installation of 2026-2028 GFWC Virginia Officers by Marolyn Cash, Past GFWC

Virginia President

Pin Ceremony

Remarks of 2026-2028 GFWC Virginia President and Director of Junior Clubs

Announcements – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

Installation Dessert Reception

9:45p.m.

Sunday, April 26, 2026

8:45a.m. Musical Prelude

9:00a.m. – 11:30a.m. **“We’ve Risen by Helping Others” Brunch/Closing Business Session**

Call to Order – President Mowry

Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain

Breakfast

Remaining Business

Awards of GFWC Special Program /GFWC Virginia Special Appointments,

Facilitated by Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapman

*Community Impact Program Award – Jean Cobb, Chairman

*Communications and Public Relations – Lynn Osborne, Chairman

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

*Website – Lynn Osborne, Chairman

*Membership Awards – Carolyn Fellers

Membership Recruitment Recognition – Carolyn Fellers

Extension Cup, Membership Cup, New Club Charters – Carolyn Fellers, Chairman

Recognition of the Arts Contests Winners – Carol Guilliams-Mills and Florence

Powell, Arts Contests Co-Coordinators

HOBY Update – Carol Outten, Coordinator

Dogwood Drawing – Gloria Worrell, Endowment Chairman

Final Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Chairman

Invitation to 2026 Conference – Camilla Cabaniss, Blue Ridge District President

Announcements/Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman

Junior Pledge

Collect for Clubwomen

Adjournment

12:15p.m. – 2:00p.m. Post-Convention 2026-2028 Executive Board Meeting

CONVENTION MENUS

Friday Marjorie Branch Banquet

Roast Beet Salad
Grilled Pork Chop
Smashed Sweet Potatoes
Apple Butter Demi
Tropical Layer Cake
Coffee, Herbal Teas & Iced Tea

Saturday Alice Kyle Banquet

Roast Beet Salad
Pan Seared French Cut Chicken
Shallot Mustard Sauce
Mashed Potatoes
Grilled Asparagus & Baby Carrots
Coffee, Herbal Teas & Iced Tea
Strawberry Shortcake

Dessert will be served at the Installation Reception

Saturday Breakfast

Seasonal & Tropical Fruit Cup
Twin Garden Veggie Frittatas, with a pesto & bistro drizzle, garnished with vine tomatoes
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Southern Potatoes with Caramelized Onions
Mini Croissants served with Seasonal Jam & Apple Butter
Orange Juice and Milk
Coffee, Decaf Coffee & Tea

Saturday Lunch

Soup, Salad & Potato Buffet
Chef's Soup Du Jour
Fresh Baked Rolls & Crackers
Salad Bar
Grilled Chicken
Baked Idaho Potato
Baked Sweet Potatoes
Assorted Mini Cheesecakes
Berry Fusion Tart
Coffee, Herbal Teas & Iced Tea

Sunday Breakfast Buffet

Vegetable & Cheese Muffin Frittata
French Toast with Fresh Berries, Powdered Sugar & Warm Maple Syrup
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Logan's Chicken Sausage
Southern Potatoes with Caramelized Onions
Freshly Baked Warm Muffins, Mini Croissants, and Cinnamon Buns, Served with Seasonal Jam, and Apple Butter
Seasonal Fruit Charcuterie served with Cut Fruit, Dried Fruit, Honey, Plain Greek Yogurt, Toasted Coconut, Almonds and Granola
Orange, Apple & Cranberry Juices, Milk, 2% Milk, Almond Milk
Coffee, Decaf Coffee & Tea

Registration using Zeffy

Use this link to register for Convention - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-convention-3>

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

You may pay with credit card or checking account.

(Upon checkout, you may choose to make a donation to Zeffy to cover processing fees they incur or you may choose to select "OTHER" from the pull down menu and change the amount to ZERO. Zeffy does not charge GFWC Virginia for processing payments, which is great! Their default donation % is set high, so BE SURE to change it to a lower or zero amount)

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

GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee Lee Patterson, Chairman

The GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee met over Zoom on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

Committee Members in attendance, representing all Districts were:

Elaine Tuck, Alice Kyle District	Judy Gough, Shenandoah District
Kathryn Sowers, Blue Ridge District	Stephanie Griffin, Southside District
Carol Outten, Lee District	Faye Boccock, Southwestern District
Sarah Entsminger, Northern District	Maureen Mike, Tidewater District
Denise Price, GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee Chairman	
Lee Patterson, GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee Chairman	

I want to thank the committee members for their help.

The Committee presents the following proposed slate of officers for the 2026 – 2028 GFWC Virginia Administration at the Annual Convention in April.

GFWC Virginia First Vice President/President-elect: Lori Rocker, Northern District

GFWC Virginia Second Vice President: Angela Paez, Southside District

GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs: Lynn Chapman, Alice Kyle District

GFWC Virginia Secretary: Joy Matkowsky, Lee District

GFWC Virginia Treasurer: Lori Chevalier, Southside District

GFWC Virginia First Vice President/President-elect: Lori Rocker, Northern District



Lori has been a proud member of GFWC for over twenty-five years. A second generation clubwoman, Lori began her federation service with the GFWC Woman’s Club of South Charleston (WV). After transferring to northern Virginia with her job, she joined the Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun. She is also a member of the GFWC Dominion Woman’s Club since 2019.

Lori has served in a variety of leadership roles at the club, District, GFWC Virginia, Southeastern Region, and GFWC levels. She proudly served as the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs in 2008 – 2010 and as the GFWC Virginia Second Vice President 2018 – 2020. Lori currently serves as the GFWC Virginia Bylaws Chairman and is serving a third term as Northern District Parliamentarian.

Lori works as the Director of Strategy and Portfolio Management for the National Student Clearinghouse, a non-profit company supporting secondary and post-secondary education. She holds multiple professional certifications in the areas of Project and Portfolio Management. Lori will complete her third year as President of the Battlefield High School Athletics Booster Club in June. This organization supports all athletics teams and athletes at her son’s high school through volunteer efforts, fundraising, equipment, and scholarships. When not working or at a meeting,

Lori can be found in the stands or on the sidelines cheering on her favorite hockey and lacrosse player.

Lori and her husband Matt have been married for 21 years. They are the proud parents of one son, Larry, who is a senior in High School. Larry will be attending Newberry College in South Carolina to study pre-medicine and play Division II Lacrosse in the fall.

GFWC Virginia Second Vice President: Angela Paez, Southside District



Angela brings more than 25 years of dedicated service to the Federation, contributing at the International, State, and District levels. Her leadership roles have included State Director of Junior Clubs (2012–2014) and Southside District President (2020–2022). She has also served through several appointments on the International Board, including the Membership Committee, International Relations, and currently the Convention Subcommittee. At the club level, Angela is presently serving as President of the GFWC Junior Woman’s Club of Hopewell.

Angela’s Federation journey is supported by a strong and encouraging family. Her husband, Jeri, is a steadfast supporter of her Federation involvement, and her sister, Amanda—also a member of the South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman’s Club—shares her commitment to service. Angela also benefits from the strong encouragement of her club members and Federation “sisters.”

Professionally, Angela serves as an Account Manager for Evonik, a specialty chemical company, where she works closely with personal care and cosmetic manufacturers. In her limited free time, she enjoys baking, reading, and organizing—though she will admit that catching up on rest is often her favorite pastime.

GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs: Lynn Chapman, Alice Kyle District



Lynn has been a federation member of the Farmville Junior Woman’s Club for 18 years. She has served her club in many capacities to include Club Secretary, Club President for four terms, and Club Parliamentarian for two terms. She served the Alice Kyle District for 10 years, as the 2012-2014 Junior Secretary, 2014-2016 Junior Treasurer, 2016-2018 Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, 2018-2020 Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, 2020-2022 Second Vice President and Membership Chairman, and the 2022-2024 First Vice President and Leadership Chairman. She has served GFWC VA as the 2020-2022 GFWC VA Junior Membership Chairman, 2022-2024 GFWC VA Junior Secretary/Treasurer, and currently the 2024-2026 GFWC VA Assistant

Director of Junior Clubs. She is a GFWC and GFWC Virginia LEADS graduate. Lynn has also represented her club at district, state and regional meetings.

She has been employed at Prince Edward County Public Schools since 2017 as a third grade Math

and Science Teacher. She serves her school in many capacities to include the School VTSS Coach, Grade Level Lead, Grade Level Math Lead, and School Leadership Team. She has been married to her husband Sean for 18 years and share two boys, Zachary (13) and Landon (9). In addition to club work, Lynn enjoys golfing, shopping, going to the beach, and spending time with her family.

GFWC Virginia Secretary: Joy Matkowsky, Lee District



Joy has been a federation member for 22 years after joining the GFWC Powhatan Junior Woman's Club in 2004. She has served as club president multiple times as well as holding several other offices and chairmanship positions. As a member of Lee District, Joy served as Lee District 3rd Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs from 2012-2013. She also served several administrations as the Junior Parliamentarian. During the 2016-2018 administration, Joy had the pleasure of serving GFWC Virginia as the 3rd Vice President Director of Junior Clubs She also served the Junior Board in several positions including Junior Parliamentarian. Joy represented the Junior Membership as their representative to the GFWC Virginia By-laws Committee for two administrations. This member is a graduate of both GFWC Virginia and GFWC LEADS as well as being the

LEADS Coordinator for GFWC Virginia.

Joy is a graduate of Elon University receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with an emphasis in Woman's Studies. She currently works at Powhatan Real Estate Settlements as their Operations Coordinator. When not working or participating in club work, Joy enjoys creating scrapbooks and traveling to warm destinations. She currently resides in Powhatan with her husband Peter, mother-in-law Val and her yorkie-poo Sammy.

GFWC Virginia Treasurer: Lori Chevalier, Southside District



Lori began her Federation Journey in 1988 when she joined the GFWC Hopewell Junior Woman's Club. She has been active on the club, district, state, region and national levels. Lori served as Southside District 3rd VP/Director of Junior Clubs from 2002-2004, GFWC Virginia 3rd VP/Director of Junior Clubs from 2010-2012 and Southside District President from 2018-2020. She is a charter member of the GFWC James River Junior Woman's Club which started in 2011 and also a charter member of the GFWC Southside District Past President's Club which started this past October.

Lori is currently serving as a GFWC Convention Committee member, GFWC Virginia Budget & Finance Chairman, Southside District Junior Secretary/Treasurer, too many other District jobs to mention and serving as her Club First Vice President.

Lori is also very active with her church and the James River District United Women in Faith. She is employed by Bank of America as a Project Management Office Consultant (celebrating 45 years

in 2026). If Lori is not working or volunteering, she is helping her nephew, going to a baseball ballgame or trying to get in some scrapbooking or card making.

Report of GFWC Virginia Junior Nominations Committee:

The GFWC Virginia Junior Nominations Committee met over Zoom Sunday January 18, 2026 to discuss and vote on the slate of officers for the 2026-2028 Administration. We present the following slate of GFWC Virginia Junior Officers for 2026-2028:

- GFWC Virginia 3rd Vice-President/Director of Junior Clubs – Lynn Chapman
- GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs – Jessica Thomas
- GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer – Jaclyn Francis

We will be voting on this slate of officers at the GFWC Virginia Convention in April. I want to thank my committee members for their help this year. Those serving on the committee were Jamey Harris – Alice Kyle District, Joy Matkowsky – Lee District, Hilary Russo – Northern District, Angela Paez – Southside District

In GFWC Sisterhood,

Denise Price
GFWC Virginia Jr Nominations Committee Chair

GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs: Jessica Thomas, Lee District



Jessica has been a federation member of the Junior Federated Women’s Clubs of Chester since 2016. She has served as club president, secretary, and chairman of a variety of committees. She is currently serving GFWC Virginia as Junior Secretary/Treasurer and Junior Budget and Finance Chairman. She was appointed to serve on the inaugural GFWC Membership Taskforce representing GFWC Virginia. She also serves GFWC Lee District as the President’s Special Project Chairman, supporting the Alzheimer’s Association. In prior years, Jessica has served GFWC Virginia as a member of the resolutions and junior fundraising committees. She is a 2019 graduate of GFWC Virginia LEADS and GFWC SER LEADS.

She is the Co-Founder of Impact Leverage, a small business providing administrative services to real estate agents, and she is Director of Operations for The Pace of Richmond, a leading real estate team at Keller Williams Realty. She was recognized as Keller Williams Operations Member of the Year in 2025 and had the privilege of teaching at Keller Williams annual conferences on multiple occasions. She is a graduate of Longwood University and has over 15 years of experience in business operations, leadership, and client services.

She and her husband, Daniel, are proudly raising their twin nieces, Jessica and Jaela, in Chesterfield, Virginia. She’s actively involved in their school organizations, her own club JFWCC, and is an advocate for the Alzheimer’s Association. In her free time, she enjoys camping, racing, football, volunteering, cooking, generating wealth, and building businesses. Her personal mission

is to create a legacy worth leaving while impacting the lives of others along the way.

GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer: Jaclyn Francis, Northern District



Jaclyn joined GFWC in 2020 as a member of the Junior Woman’s Club of Loudoun. She has served club in many capacities, including First Vice President (2025-present), Second Vice President (2023-2025), Secretary (2021-2023), By-Laws Chair, and three-time Prom Wishes Co-Chair. Jaclyn is wrapping up her term as GFWC VA Northern District Third Vice President / Director of Junior Clubs (2024-26). She has represented her club at district, state, and regional meetings, and is a graduate of the 2025 GFWC Virginia LEADS in Staunton, VA.

Jaclyn is the Director for Intelligence Policy & Strategic Planning within the Federal Government and is approaching 20 years this November as a public servant. Born and raised on Long Island, New York, she spends her time rooting for the Mets, Giants, and Islanders. She moved to Washington, D.C., to attend The George Washington University for her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice & Sociology, and The Catholic University of America for her Juris Doctor, becoming a member of the Maryland Bar in 2005. In 2020 she received a Master’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, which quickly became one of her favorite places. Jaclyn is married to her husband, Joe, and has two children, Ethan and Solène. She finds joy in various activities with family and friends, such as hiking, fitness, and sailing. She also loves art and travel, from day trips to overseas adventures.

**GFWC Virginia Proposed Bylaws & Standing Rules Amendments
Convention 2026**

The GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendments to the GFWC Virginia Bylaws for action at Convention 2026. Items in green reflect additions, items in red indicate deletions:

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GFWC VIRGINIA BYLAWS

1. ARTICLE IV. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Currently Reads: Not Applicable

Change: Insert new Section 7. Junior Executive Committee

Section 7. Junior Executive Committee

A. Membership

There shall be a GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee composed of the GFWC Virginia Junior elected officers. The GFWC Virginia Junior Parliamentarian shall serve as an advisor without vote.

B. Meetings

1. The GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee shall be authorized to meet on call of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs or any two GFWC Virginia Junior officers. The GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee may meet between meetings of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board. Meetings may be held as a body or electronically following the guidelines in the GFWC Virginia adopted parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
2. The quorum of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee shall be three members.
3. GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee action shall be reported to the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board at its next meeting and shall be recorded in the Minutes of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting.

Rationale: The Junior Executive Committee is referred to throughout the Bylaws but was not defined.

If adopted, shall read:

Section 7. Junior Executive Committee

A. Membership

There shall be a GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee composed of the GFWC Virginia Junior elected officers. The GFWC Virginia Junior Parliamentarian shall serve as an advisor without vote.

B. Meetings

1. The GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee shall be authorized to meet on call of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs or any two GFWC Virginia Junior officers. The GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee may meet between meetings of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board. Meetings may be held as a body or electronically following the guidelines in the GFWC Virginia adopted parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
2. The quorum of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee shall be three members.
3. GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Committee action shall be reported to the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board at its next meeting and shall be recorded in the Minutes of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting.

2. ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS. Section 7. Duties of Officers, A. District President shall

Currently Reads:

A. The District President shall:

1. Represent the District on the GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
2. Present a report of the work of the District at each GFWC Virginia Executive Board meeting as directed by the GFWC Virginia President;

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3. Submit Annual Reports of the work of the District as directed by the GFWC Virginia President;
4. Submit a written report of the work of the District to the GFWC Virginia President, GFWC Virginia First Vice President, and the GFWC Virginia Executive Secretary for distribution at the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention;
5. Submit a copy of the District annual financial report to the GFWC Virginia President no later than thirty days after the close of the fiscal year;
6. Send names of the District member and alternates elected to the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee to GFWC Virginia Headquarters no later than November 5 in the second year of an administration;
7. Notify each nominee for District Office regarding her status within 5 days of notification by the District Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration.
8. Send a roster of District club presidents to GFWC Virginia Headquarters no later than May 15 of each year;
9. Promote the programs of GFWC Virginia within the clubs in the District in conjunction with the District Third Vice President /Director of Junior Clubs;
10. Preside at all meetings of the District;
11. Call a meeting of the District Executive Committee at least two months prior to the District Annual Meeting and at such other times as deemed advisable;
12. Send the Call to District meetings at least six weeks in advance of the meetings;
13. Appoint a District Parliamentarian;
14. Appoint District Chairmen corresponding to those defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII and other Chairmen as deemed advisable to further the work of GFWC Virginia;
15. Serve ex-officio on all District committees except the Nominating Committee;
16. Be authorized to take a vote of the District Executive Committee by mail or electronic means. Action taken shall be ratified at the next meeting of the District Executive Committee and shall be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting;
17. Perform other duties as delegated by the District Executive Committee.

Proposed Change:

- Insert new #8 “8. Provide the slate of nominees for the District Offices and District Junior Offices in the Call for the District Annual Meeting in the second year of the administration”
- Renumber current 8 through 17 as 9 – 18.

Rationale: To clarify responsibility of President to ensure the Slate of Officers is included in the Call for the second Spring meeting of the Administration

If adopted, shall read:

B. The District President shall:

1. Represent the District on the GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
2. Present a report of the work of the District at each GFWC Virginia Executive Board meeting as directed by the GFWC Virginia President;
3. Submit Annual Reports of the work of the District as directed by the GFWC Virginia President;
4. Submit a written report of the work of the District to the GFWC Virginia President, GFWC Virginia First Vice President, and the GFWC Virginia Executive Secretary for distribution at the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention;
5. Submit a copy of the District annual financial report to the GFWC Virginia President no later than

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thirty days after the close of the fiscal year;

6. Send names of the District member and alternates elected to the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee to GFWC Virginia Headquarters no later than November 5 in the second year of an administration;
7. Notify each nominee for District Office regarding her status within 5 days of notification by the District Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration.
8. Provide the slate of nominees for the District Offices and District Junior Offices in the Call for the District Annual Meeting in the second year of the administration;
9. Send a roster of District club presidents to GFWC Virginia Headquarters no later than May 15 of each year;
10. Promote the programs of GFWC Virginia within the clubs in the District in conjunction with the District Third Vice President /Director of Junior Clubs;
11. Preside at all meetings of the District;
12. Call a meeting of the District Executive Committee at least two months prior to the District Annual Meeting and at such other times as deemed advisable;
13. Send the Call to District meetings at least six weeks in advance of the meetings;
14. Appoint a District Parliamentarian;
15. Appoint District Chairmen corresponding to those defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII and other Chairmen as deemed advisable to further the work of GFWC Virginia;
16. Serve ex-officio on all District committees except the Nominating Committee;
17. Be authorized to take a vote of the District Executive Committee by mail or electronic means. Action taken shall be ratified at the next meeting of the District Executive Committee and shall be recorded in the Minutes of that meeting;
18. Perform other duties as delegated by the District Executive Committee.

3. ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 7. Duties of Officers, D. District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs shall:

Currently Reads:

1. Serve as Junior membership liaison between the District and GFWC Virginia;
2. Promote the objectives of GFWC Virginia through Junior clubs in the District;
3. Preside at all District Junior Business meetings;
4. Submit names of Junior members to the District President for consideration as District Chairmen as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII and other Chairmen as deemed advisable to further the work of GFWC Virginia;
5. Appoint other chairmen as are needed to carry on specific programs pertaining to Junior membership;
6. Appoint a Junior Parliamentarian;
7. Perform other duties as delegated by the District Executive Committee and District Junior Executive Committee.

Proposed Change:

Insert the following new items as numbered:

2. Represent the District Juniors on the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board;
3. Present a report of the work of the District Juniors at each GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting as directed by the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs;
9. Notify each nominee for District Junior Office regarding her status within 5 days of notification by

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the District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration.

10. Notify the District President of the nominees for the District Junior Offices except the office of Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs,
 - Renumber existing items

Rationale: To define and clarify responsibilities. Outlining requirement for District Third Vice President to be part of the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board. Adding requirements around notification of Junior Nominees for office and the President of the slate.

If adopted shall read:

D. The District Third Vice President /Director of Junior Clubs shall:

1. Serve as Junior membership liaison between the District and GFWC Virginia;
2. Represent the District Juniors on the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board;
3. Present a report of the work of the District Juniors at each GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting as directed by the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs;
4. Promote the objectives of GFWC Virginia through Junior clubs in the District;
5. Preside at all District Junior Business meetings;
6. Submit names of Junior members to the District President for consideration as District Chairmen as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII and other Chairmen as deemed advisable to further the work of GFWC Virginia;
7. Appoint other chairmen as are needed to carry on specific programs pertaining to Junior membership;
8. Appoint a Junior Parliamentarian;
9. Notify each nominee for District Junior Office regarding her status within 5 days of notification by the District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration.
10. Notify the District President of the nominees for District Junior Office, except the office of Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs,
11. Perform other duties as delegated by the District Executive Committee and District Junior Executive Committee.

4. ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 10. District Junior Clubs

Currently Reads:

Section 10. District Junior Clubs

District Junior Club shall be governed by the GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules except where exempted in these rules. The District Junior membership may develop Standing Rules governing District Junior Clubs.

Proposed Change:

- Append 's' at end of Junior and strike Clubs in Section Title
- Append 's' at end of Junior and strike Clubs in first sentence.
- Append 's' at end of Junior and strike Clubs in first sentence.
- Subsections are not modified by this change.

Rationale: To clarify. This section is referring to the Junior Membership of the District, not the individual Junior clubs within the District.

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If adopted, shall read:

Section 10. District Juniors Clubs

District Juniors-Clubs shall be governed by the GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules except where exempted in these rules. The District Junior membership may develop Standing Rules governing District Juniors clubs.

5. ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 10. District Junior Clubs, B. Nominations and Elections 3. Remove timeframe for submission of candidate's name.

Currently Reads:

3. The District Junior Nominating Committee shall select a candidate for the office of District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs. The District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman shall forward the name of the candidate to the District Nominating Committee Chairman no later than 45 days before the date of the District Annual Meeting. The election shall be held at the District Annual Meeting. The District Junior Nominating Committee shall nominate the District Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, a District Junior Secretary, a District Junior Treasurer, or a District Junior Secretary/Treasurer.

Proposed Change:

- Strike "no later than 45 days before the date of the District Annual Meeting"

Rationale: Consistency

If adopted, shall read:

3. The District Junior Nominating Committee shall select a candidate for the office of District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs. The District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman shall forward the name of the candidate to the District Nominating Committee Chairman ~~no later than 45 days before the date of the District Annual Meeting~~. The election shall be held at the District Annual Meeting. The District Junior Nominating Committee shall nominate the District Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, a District Junior Secretary, a District Junior Treasurer, or a District Junior Secretary/Treasurer.

6. ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 10. District Junior Clubs – New Sub-Section F.

Currently Reads: Does not exist.

Proposed Change:

F. Representation on GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board.

In the event that a District does not have a District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, the Junior membership in that district may designate a representative to attend the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting with vote.

Rationale: Consistency to address representation.

If adopted, shall read:

F. Representation on GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board.

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In the event that a District does not have a District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, the Junior membership in that district may designate a representative to attend the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board meeting with vote.

7. ARTICLE XIII. STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 8. Scholarship Committee

Currently Reads:

The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee, appointed by the GFWC Virginia President, shall be composed of at least three and not more than five members. The President shall designate the Chairman. It shall be the duty of the GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee to administer the funds of the Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship and the Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship as defined in GFWC Virginia Standing Rules governing Scholarships with approval of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee Chairman shall advise the GFWC Virginia President and GFWC Virginia Treasurer of all applications and awards.

Proposed Change:

Update Third Sentence

- Strike - "Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship and Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship"
- Insert – "GFWC Virginia Legacy Scholarship"

Rationale:

At recommendation of the GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee, consolidating two GFWC Virginia Scholarships into one.

If adopted, shall read:

The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee, appointed by the GFWC Virginia President, shall be composed of at least three and not more than five members. The President shall designate the Chairman. It shall be the duty of the GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee to administer the funds of the ~~Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship and the Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship~~ GFWC Virginia Legacy Scholarship as defined in GFWC Virginia Standing Rules governing Scholarships with approval of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee Chairman shall advise the GFWC Virginia President and GFWC Virginia Treasurer of all applications and awards.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GFWC VIRGINIA STANDING RULES

A. 8. Finances, c.

Currently Reads:

Interest earned on GFWC Virginia assets, the GFWC Virginia Endowment Fund, and the Mary Macon McGuire and Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship Funds shall be considered a source of revenue for GFWC Virginia.

Proposed Change:

- Strike "Mary Macon McGuire and Phyllis V. Roberts"
- Insert "GFWC Virginia Legacy"

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Rationale:

Update to reflect the new scholarship structure recommended by the GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee.

If adopted, shall read:

Interest earned on GFWC Virginia assets, the GFWC Virginia Endowment Fund, and the ~~Mary Macon McGuire and Phyllis V. Roberts~~ GFWC Virginia Legacy Scholarship Funds shall be considered a source of revenue for GFWC Virginia.

B. 11. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Currently Reads:

11. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

A. PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship is named for Phyllis V. Roberts, the second Virginian to serve as GFWC International President (1986-1988.) The Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals for the purpose of awarding scholarships to college students in a subject field selected each administration by the GFWC Virginia President. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.

- Applicant must be a Virginia resident.
- Letters of recommendation from three (3) individuals, one of a personal nature, two from recent teachers, counselors, advisors or professors, must accompany the application.
- Applicant must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA. A transcript from the most recent school attended verifying the GPA must accompany the application.
- Applicant shall include a short statement of interest in the selected field.
- Applicant should include a resume of educational and employment history as well as community service and awards received.
- Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.

Scholarships totaling \$3,000 may be given during each administration. A scholarship of \$1,000 per year may be awarded each recipient. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia college, or university where the recipient is registered.

The current application form is available on the GFWC Virginia website. Inquiries should be directed to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, P.O. Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226, (804-288-3724 or gfwcvirginia@verizon.net).

B. MARY MACON MCGUIRE SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1929, the scholarship is named for Mary Macon McGuire, of the Eastern Shore, who served capably for many years as Chairman of the VFWC Library Service Committee. The Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals given for the purpose of awarding scholarships to a Virginia woman returning to school to advance her education and employment. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.

- Applicant must be a resident of Virginia.
- Applicant must be registered in a course of study (vocational or academic) at an institute of higher learning accredited in Virginia.

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Convention 2026**

- Letters of recommendation from two (2) individuals, other than immediate family, must accompany the application. (Examples include: a recent counselor, advisor, mentor, or employer.)
- An essay of not more than 1,000 words outlining the need for the scholarship, as well as the reasons for entering the field of study selected, must be included with the application.
- Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.

Two \$2,500 scholarships may be given during each administration. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia institution of higher learning where the recipient is registered.

The current application form is available on the GFWC Virginia website. Inquiries should be directed to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, P.O. Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226, (804-288-3724 or gfwcvirginia@verizon.net).

Proposed Changes:

- Strike Section Title
- Delete current subsections A & B
- Insert

New Section Title: 11. GFWC Virginia Legacy Scholarship

- New description:

This scholarship is in honor of GFWC Virginia Clubwomen who have served GFWC at its highest levels. GFWC Past International Presidents: Dorothea Dutcher Buck (1947-1950), Phyllis V. Roberts (1986-1988), and Shelby Paisley Hamlett (2000-2002) and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs: Trina Behbahani (2026-2028). The Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals for the purpose of awarding scholarships to college students in a subject field selected each administration by the GFWC Virginia President. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.

- Applicant must be a Virginia resident.
- Letters of recommendation from three (3) individuals, one of a personal nature, two from recent teachers, counselors, advisors or professors, must accompany the application.
- Applicant must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA. A transcript from the most recent school attended verifying the GPA must accompany the application.
- Applicant shall include a short statement of interest in the selected field.
- Applicant should include a resume of educational and employment history as well as community service and awards received.
- Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.

Scholarships totaling \$5,000 may be given during each administration. A scholarship of \$2,500 per year may be awarded each recipient. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia college, or university where the recipient is registered.

The current application form is available on the GFWC Virginia website. Inquiries should be directed to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, P.O. Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226, (804-288-3724 or gfwcvirginia@verizon.net).

Rationale: Recommendation of the Scholarship Committee

**GFWC Virginia Proposed Bylaws & Standing Rules Amendments
Convention 2026**

If adopted, shall read:

11. ~~SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS~~ **GFWC Virginia Legacy Scholarship**

~~A. PHYLLIS V. ROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP~~

~~The scholarship is named for Phyllis V. Roberts, the second Virginian to serve as GFWC International President (1986-1988.) The Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals for the purpose of awarding scholarships to college students in a subject field selected each administration by the GFWC Virginia President. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.~~

- ~~• Applicant must be a Virginia resident.~~
- ~~• Letters of recommendation from three (3) individuals, one of a personal nature, two from recent teachers, counselors, advisors or professors, must accompany the application.~~
- ~~• Applicant must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA. A transcript from the most recent school attended verifying the GPA must accompany the application.~~
- ~~• Applicant shall include a short statement of interest in the selected field.~~
- ~~• Applicant should include a resume of educational and employment history as well as community service and awards received.~~
- ~~• Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.~~

~~Scholarships totaling \$3,000 may be given during each administration. A scholarship of \$1,000 per year may be awarded each recipient. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia college, or university where the recipient is registered.~~

~~The current application form is available on the GFWC Virginia website. Inquiries should be directed to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, P.O. Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226, (804-288-3724 or gfwcvirginia@verizon.net).~~

~~B. MARY MACON MCGUIRE SCHOLARSHIP~~

~~Established in 1929, the scholarship is named for Mary Macon McGuire, of the Eastern Shore, who served capably for many years as Chairman of the VFWC Library Service Committee. The Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals given for the purpose of awarding scholarships to a Virginia woman returning to school to advance her education and employment. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.~~

- ~~• Applicant must be a resident of Virginia.~~
- ~~• Applicant must be registered in a course of study (vocational or academic) at an institute of higher learning accredited in Virginia.~~
- ~~• Letters of recommendation from two (2) individuals, other than immediate family, must accompany the application. (Examples include: a recent counselor, advisor, mentor, or employer.)~~
- ~~• An essay of not more than 1,000 words outlining the need for the scholarship, as well as the reasons for entering the field of study selected, must be included with the application.~~
- ~~• Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.~~

~~Two \$2,500 scholarships may be given during each administration. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia institution of higher learning where the recipient is registered.~~

**GFWC Virginia Proposed Bylaws & Standing Rules Amendments
Convention 2026**

~~The current application form is available on the GFWC Virginia website. Inquiries should be directed to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, P.O. Box 8750, Richmond, VA 23226, (804-288-3724 or gfwcvirginia@verizon.net).~~

This scholarship is in honor of GFWC Virginia Clubwomen who have served GFWC at its highest levels. GFWC Past International Presidents: Dorothea Dutcher Buck (1947-1950), Phyllis V. Roberts (1986-1988), and Shelby Paisley Hamlett (2000-2002) and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs: Trina Behbahani (2026-2028). The Fund shall consist of contributions from clubs and individuals for the purpose of awarding scholarships to college students in a subject field selected each administration by the GFWC Virginia President. The GFWC Virginia Scholarship Committee will administer the scholarship fund.

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- Applicant should include a resume of educational and employment history as well as community service and awards received.
- Applicants may apply for this scholarship each year.

Scholarships totaling \$5,000 may be given during each administration. A scholarship of \$2,500 per year may be awarded each recipient. Following verification of enrollment, all monies will be paid directly to the Virginia college, or university where the recipient is registered.

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General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia
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Phone (804) 288-3724
E-mail gfwcvirginia@verizon.net
Website www.gfwcvirginia.org

Address Service Requested

MARCH 2026

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