

The Virginia Clubwoman



JUNE 2025



President's Message

Susie Mowry

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The President's Message—

It is so hard to believe that half of this administration is almost over. I cannot believe how fast time has flown. We have held the first conference and now the 1st convention. I was thrilled with how the 117th GFWC Virginia Convention turned out. Based on the evaluations I read, so were those in attendance. There were 151 members registered, with quite a few first-time attendees. We made a few changes, such as assigning seats. I know there were a few skeptics out there who did not think that would turn out well, but if you believe the comments I think it was a great success. The goal of this convention was to give a lot of information that could be taken back and shared with other club members. I was really pleased with the Idea to Reality Panel. All four of the presenters were excellent, sharing information that can be replicated in many other communities. A big thank you goes out to Susan Ferguson, Barbara Barnes, Debby Amick, and Lisa Long. On behalf of all the members of GFWC Virginia, thank you for taking the time to share your successful projects. I believe I speak for all the attendees at Convention when I say I could have listened to Dr. Jennifer Parrish, Executive Director of the Peake Early Childhood Center, all afternoon. She provided much-needed information on the state of early childhood education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Alice Kyle Banquet was so much fun. From the Black and White mode of dress to the creative ways we learned about the past presidents it was truly wonderful. Congratulations to the Past Presidents of GFWC Virginia for being such good sports. We all enjoyed the hot air balloon rides you took us on and the creative ways in which your "conversations" were captured. It is always a pleasure and real joy to be able to present awards for the work that is done throughout Virginia. I only wish we could give more awards and recognize more of the spectacular projects that are being done. Please take the time to congratulate yourselves and each other, regardless of whether or not you received a formal award from the state. The projects you do and the positive changes you have made, and will continue to make, in your communities is inspiring.



I encourage you to come to Conference in August. We hope to continue to provide the type of content we had at the Convention. We will have another Idea to Reality panel, but this time the projects will focus on Legislative, Communication, and Fundraising. There will be a "mini-workshop" on Leadership and a Membership project discussed as well. The presentation of What Can We Do for Affiliates? should be informative and helpful in developing plans to assist in those areas. Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary, will be our special guest at Conference and we are pleased that she will be our keynote speaker. Now, don't think the conference will be all work and no fun. You need to plan to come on Friday



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The Virginia Clubwoman

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ON THE COVER

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Shannon Bailey
GFWC Florida

night before the conference. Bring your best pajamas and bone up on your trivia skills. We have a fun night planned. Believe me when I say, this should result in a good time being had by all.

The GFWC International Convention was held in Atlanta this year. I am proud to say that of all the states there, Virginia had the 3rd highest number of attendees....31. That was right behind Alabama (the home state of the international president) and Florida. Great Job! This was a very successful convention for us, but you will have to come to Conference to hear the results!!! A few Virginia clubs were chosen for the Creativity Awards. So as you can imagine, it is exciting stuff! At the Convention Sue Ellen Brazil, GFWC International President, emphasized the International Day of Service set for September 27th. If you have not registered your club or your district, please consider doing so. The focus of this administration is on the GFWC Signature Project Domestic Violence. I know our state Chairman, Joyce Jolly, has been in contact with the District Signature Project Chairmen so if there are any questions, please contact them.

The GFWC Southeastern Region (SER) Conference will be held from October 24-26th at the Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia. Virginia is the host federation and as you hopefully already know, there will be lots of help needed to show the great hospitality that is Virginia. More will be forthcoming about this conference. Be on the lookout for a Constant Contact with more information. Kathryn Sowers, Past GFWC Virginia President, is the SER Chairman. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help, please contact her directly.

As always, I want to thank each of you for the work you have been doing. The projects that were reported and the successes realized, are a great testament to the care and kindness you show to your communities. You may never know the impact you make or the influence your work has on the people you help. We don't do what we do for awards or personal acknowledgment. We do what we do so that the world we live in is a better place for all those around us.

Susie

Joanne Dixon
GFWC Virginia Third Vice President
Director of Junior Clubs

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What an amazing time we had at GFWC Virginia Convention in Midlothian! Congratulations to all of the clubs for their amazing accomplishments!

I was honored to represent Virginia, along with Madame President, at the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We had a great showing of Virginia Juniors and I am hoping to see all those who attended in Atlanta at the Conference in August! I can't wait to share our experience with all of you there.

We will again be collecting items for Advocates for Children to support the Northern and Shenandoah Districts. More information to come as we get closer to August.

I hope you will join me at the GFWC Virginia Conference in Staunton, Virginia in August.

Juniors, don't forget to review the GFWC Virginia Junior Leadership Scholarship, located in the Junior Standing Rules on page 139, for the opportunity to have your registration paid to attend the conference.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Joanne

Cynthia Baroody

GFWC Virginia First Vice President/President-elect

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Lynn Chapman

GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs

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Greetings GFWC Virginia Club Members! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 117th Annual Convention at the Doubletree Midlothian in Richmond Virginia. Many thanks to the Lee District for their gracious hospitality; they truly did a spectacular job! Congratulations to all our members and clubs who won awards and thanks to all the GFWC Virginia Chairmen who read the reports and chose the best for awards. Your time and service is much appreciated! You can read the reports of the officers and district presidents along with all the Advancement Plans, Special Programs and Community Service Programs award winners in the GFWC Virginia Annual Award Report booklet which your club presidents should have received via email. This also provides you with a resource for future projects and programs – so please share it with all of your club members.

Your Leadership Chairmen have just returned from an inspiring and informative GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. We have lots of information to share with you regarding leadership – empowering leaders to build success. We are in the planning stages for our workshops at our GFWC Virginia Conference in August and hope that you all mark your calendars for August 8-10 and plan on coming to Hotel 24 South, Staunton where we can share ideas and enhance projects and programs. Don't forget our GFWC Virginia LEADS program will be held on Sunday, August 10th and GFWC Secretary, Dr. Susan Gettys will be taking part in this seminar – you won't want to miss that! It's not too late to send in your applications to GFWC Virginia Headquarters. We will also be announcing our candidate for the prestigious Jennie Award.

We hope to see all of you at our GFWC Virginia Conference August 8-10, 2025 at Hotel 24, Staunton! Enjoy your summer and remember your Leadership Team is always available to answer any of your questions or concerns – we are working together to make you successful.

Carolyn Fellers

GFWC Virginia Second Vice President

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Alaina Chaffee

GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman

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Thank you to everyone who has participated in the recent surveys from GFWC Virginia. Your input is invaluable—it helps guide your Executive Board in decision-making and brings fresh ideas to enhance our conventions and conferences.

As enter the summer season, we'd like to take a moment to talk about membership and why it continues to matter—even when many clubs take a break from regular meetings.

Have you planned any summer socials for your club? These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to invite spouses or special friends to join in. It's a chance for them to see what your club is about and to meet the women you spend time with throughout the year. These relaxed events often spark new connections—and new members.

Even if you're not holding formal meetings during the summer, you may still be working on service projects or events. This is a good time to reflect on your club's structure and expectations. Are they clear to all members? Are there opportunities to try new approaches? Open communication and shared understanding strengthen teamwork and support long-term growth.

Most importantly, take time this summer to enjoy each other's company. Get to know your fellow clubwomen on a more personal level—you may be surprised by how much you have in common. From those connections, great ideas often emerge that help clubs grow and thrive.

As always, thank you for your dedication and for everything you do to support your communities. We appreciate you!

Lynne Wherry

GFWC Virginia Treasurer

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Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Secretary/Treasurer

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You've made it through your first year as treasurer—well done! Hopefully, you're feeling proud and ready to take on the 2025 - 2026 club year with confidence.

Now's a great time to check-in. Were you effective? Do your members understand the club's financial picture? Are your books ready for the new year? If your club requires a financial review, make sure it's done, and update your budget as needed. Keep your members informed along the way.

If your term is ending, thank you for your service! Take time to meet with the incoming treasurer, go over the books, and share your tips. A little guidance goes a long way.

Being treasurer is a year-round responsibility, but now it's your turn to take a well-deserved break. Rest, recharge, and enjoy your summer. And remember, Lynne and Jessica are always here if you need support. We hope to see you at the Summer Conference in August!

Parliamentary Notes

Sarah Entsminger, PRP

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It's Nominating Committee Season. Time to review a few important points. The basic rights of membership allow each member to bring business before the organization, vote, attend meetings, and hold office. Unless your Bylaws specifically set out restrictions on who can be nominated for an office, then all current members are eligible to serve, unless there are specific term limits that exclude their continued service. It is important to review your governing documents to be sure

you understand the specific provisions relating to eligibility, nominations, and elections.

GFWC Virginia's Bylaws provide provisions for both district (Article IV) and state (Article VII) nominations and elections. Article IV, Section 5, A. requires that a district nominating committee of 5 members be elected by the district membership in the first year of an administration. It also requires one member of this committee to be a Junior, either the chairman of the Junior Nominating Committee or another Junior – this is not optional. The District Nominating Committee is given two tasks, the first is nominating the District's member to the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee for election by the membership, and the second is nominating District officers for election by the membership. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms on the district or state nominating committee. Specific elected officers may not serve on nominating committees, this does not include any appointed positions such as a committee chairman, parliamentarian, or aide. Many of the nominating and election provisions include deadlines that must be met.

One very important point to remember is that both District and GFWC Virginia offices are not "General vs. Junior", and any current member may be nominated and serve as any officer regardless of whether they are a member of a General or Junior club, all members are equal. While the Bylaws specify that the Third Vice-President/Director of Junior Clubs must be a Junior, no other office excludes a Junior from eligibility.

An additional important point, GFWC Virginia Bylaws do not dictate that the Nominating Committee should present a slate with a single name for an office, multiple names may be submitted if the Nominating Committee determines that multiple people are eligible, have appropriate experience, and are interested in a leadership position. There is also the opportunity for someone to be nominated from the floor during the election process, regardless of whether or not the Nominating Committee reviewed the nominee during their meeting.

Serving as a nominating committee member is an important leadership position and should be undertaken with both integrity and responsibility. Regardless of whether you are a member of a club, district, or state nominating committee, please remember that all discussion and deliberation must be completely confidential.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Lori Rocker, Chairman
GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee
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The Bylaws Committee has been busy since GFWC Virginia Convention. The first priority of the Committee was to address any items that were time-sensitive to the second year of an administration. Please refer to the proposed amendments to both the Bylaws and Standing Rules that are included in this publication. These items will be presented for your action at Summer Conference.

Starting this Fall, the Bylaws Committee will review and provide proposed amendments to the remaining portions of the Bylaws. If you identify any questions or areas that need additional clarification in our Bylaws, please contact a member of the Bylaws Committee. Please refer to Article XIII. STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 3. Bylaws Committee, B. to review who is eligible to submit requested changes to the Bylaws.

Wishing you a relaxing and fun summer break! This Chairman looks forward to seeing you at Conference.

Jean Cobb
GFWC Virginia Community Impact Program Award
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Each Community Impact Program Award Entry Form can feature one project based on community need or the

Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. The selected project must be undertaken by a club and accomplished during the award period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

Award Entry Form highlights the following:

- Brief description of the project and the issue/problem you are trying to solve.
- Project scope including:
 - the plan of action.
 - costs to implement and how the project was funded.
 - community collaboration, if any.
 - obstacles, if any, you overcame to implement the project.
- Results achieved and the long-term effects of the project on the community.
- Public relations and media (including internet, newspaper articles, social media, television, etc.) including pictures of the project activities.

Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages, including photos, media, etc.

This information was taken from the GFWC manual.



Lynn Osborne
**GFWC Virginia Communications and
Public Relations Chairman**
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BAND – The App for Groups: The BAND app allows group leaders to start “bands” (groups) where they can message users, create events, make announcements, and share content. This is a great resource, especially for Juniorette Groups. It allows the group sponsor to communicate with members and parents. One of the best features is the calendar where events can be posted up to a year in advance. It is highly customizable and allows group posts where you can assign importance to the message. BAND allows two-way communication as well. A great feature is a read-receipt to messages ensuring all members are notified of upcoming events. Texting is available if members have a phone number assigned to their profile. You can post pictures of events, so they are all in one place. The best part - it is Free. The app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play.

This will work for any group, but very helpful when working with members and their parents. Consider reading more about it for your club.

Information taken from the GFWC Communications/PR Spring Newsletter

Gloria Worrell
GFWC Virginia Endowment Chairman
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Wasn't it a great Convention? If you missed it, it was out of the park, from President Susie's new and exciting way to acknowledge the Past Presidents, the District Director, and Junior Director's skit, the wonderful speaker, and a great time with Federation friends and fellowshiping with each other. Thank you to all who stopped by the Endowment table and made donations, upgraded their Dogwood pins, joined the Dogwood Society, or purchased raffle tickets. It was our largest Dogwood \$\$\$ raffle giveaway to date!

Did you know that at any time you can upgrade your Dogwood pin, make a donation, or purchase Dogwood \$\$\$ for

friends and other leaders just by reaching out to Heather at Headquarters (gfwcvirginia@verizon.net)? Also, if you are a bud, don't forget to make payments on your buds to reach your Topaz level. After no payments for two years, it becomes just a donation.

New this Year - Did your clubs record Endowment \$\$ on your reporting form this year? This is new so clubs ask your members to keep track of this information so you can report it in January remember all donations are tax-deductible.

Every dollar given to the Endowment in any way listed above only makes GFWC Virginia stronger!

Miranda Lester

GFWC Virginia Fundraising Chairman

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HELLO SUMMER!! HELLO FUNDRAISING!

This past weekend, I had the privilege to attend the 2025 International GFWC Convention in Atlanta. First, I want to say, it was a great experience to attend and take the opportunity to learn and network with other clubs from other states! (That is one of my personal favorite things to do!) The convention held workshops for the attendees and I took the opportunity to attend the Fundraising workshop. I took notes and plan on sharing this workshop of information with all of you!

We had a moment to do a quick "brainstorming" exercise on how to put the word out for the fundraisers. These are a few ideas: Facebook, Instagram, local magazines, local newspapers, billboards, and flyers for businesses, work with your city to hang banners and advertise on digital signs. The most unique idea was contacting your local city/town/county water authorities to have them print some information about your fundraiser on the water bill. I personally would not have thought about doing this, but I will now!

Having a successful fundraiser is something we all hope to accomplish. They shared some ideas on how to help with that. Have a working relationship with the community. Networking is a great way to achieve that. Look and see what other clubs/groups are doing, and volunteer to help out with their activity/fundraiser. Talk to them about the club and fundraisers you have planned. You must have communication within the club. Each member or volunteer needs to know what their responsibilities are for that fundraiser. To help with that, have a notebook or binder that can help with organization. Sometimes change is necessary. Maybe change the venue/location, or have the same event, but change the name around. Change the theme! Let the community know exactly what you are doing this fundraiser for. A scholarship? Donation to the local school? Letting them know what the money raised is going to be used for can impact how successful it will be. Have the person(s) in charge of the fundraiser do a breakdown of money taken in (before the event/during/after the event), expenses, and the total amount profited. That can help later if you need to make changes to the fundraiser for next time. Do a survey. Have everyone attending and volunteering do a survey about the event. Take the suggestions back to the group/club and see what can be changed or tweaked for next time. You could do those with an email survey if you have their emails, or do a short paper survey.

Lastly, here are a few ideas for some unique fundraisers without a lot of work. Contact a charter bus company and do a bus destination trip! Who does not love a trip when you do not have to drive or plan? The company does the work for you! Host a Swarovski Crystal party. Find a representative with Touchstone Crystal. They set up for the party, and you sell the crystals and jewelry. Family Feud game night! You purchase the game, compile all of your questions/answers, and have families compete for a prize.

I hope all of this information is helpful to you. I cannot wait to see what exciting fundraisers each of you come up with! Have a great summer!

Judy Gough
GFWC Virginia Headquarters Chairman
headquarters@gfwcvirginia.org

*Listen my club women and you shall hear
Of the year long request of money so dear
We love your gifts and your presents so kind
But we like the dollars that in our treasury we line
Dollars to buy our supplies and pay our rent
Dollars for paper and pamphlets that make a dent
Dollars for helping members like us
Dollars for not having heather make a fuss
Dollars for machines and phones to reach out
Dollars for all that headquarters is about
This year we raised over 1000 dollars with the dues form
Thank you for the donations
Couldn't we just raise a few more dollars next time???*

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.

I cannot describe the **O U T S T A N D I N G** experience I had at the Virginia HOBY Leadership Seminar during the weekend of May 31st – June 1st on the **campus of James Madison University**. The enthusiasm, excitement and comradery displayed by the Ambassadors was extraordinary. **The theme of this year's seminar was "Leaders on the Rise"**. As in years past, the Curriculum was based upon HOBY's vision to motivate and empower future leaders in our global society. From the moment of arrival, ambassadors were immersed in teambuilding activities, leadership presentations, a service project, and motivational addresses from keynote speakers who were experts in their fields. **Leadership through Service** was emphasized and each Ambassador was challenged to return to their community and perform at least 100 hours of Community Service. **This year the Seminar Service Project was producing fleece blankets and welcome bags for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia.** Rebecca Brockman, RMHC volunteer manager, addressed the ambassadors, highlighting the history and scope of volunteer service provided to Ronald McDonald charities both nationally and internationally. **GFWC Virginia Clubs generously DONATED ALL the fleece for the blankets!!** Your donations of administrative materials, gift cards, stamps, hand sanitizer, and craft materials were put to good use. As always, "snacks" were a huge hit with ambassadors and staff alike. Nationwide over 8500 student ambassadors will attend one of 70 seminars and will be supported by over 3000 volunteers, many of whom are alumni of previous sessions.



Ambassadors cut and tie
Welcome Bags for RMHC

This Year GFWC Virginia Clubs donated \$5,835.00 to support Attendance for our Ambassadors and provided over \$1500.00 in "In-Kind Donations for the Seminar. If your Club would like to sponsor an ambassador or provide financial support to HOBY Virginia, please see page 84 in the current GFWC Virginia Yearbook. Gifts of any amount are

greatly appreciated. If you have questions, **please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information. As always, HOBY Virginia is grateful to the ladies of GFWC Virginia for their generosity and support of the Leadership seminars and our ambassadors.**



Sending HOBY HUGs and wishes for an OUTSTANDING Day!

Dale Fisher

GFWC Virginia Scholarship Program Chairman

scholarships@gfwcvirginia.org

Is your neighborhood full of congratulatory graduation yard signs? Mine sure is. And it is so nice to know that our clubs' efforts have lent to the celebration of enhanced education to come.

It was this chairman's privilege to report at the convention that GFWC Virginia received four (4) applications for the Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship. All were young women who expressed a passion for working with and developing positive learning skills for our youth. The Standing Rules applicable to the PVR Scholarship dictate that three (3) \$1,000 scholarships may be given during the administration to students pursuing a course of study in the field of Early Childhood Education. After constructive conversation, the committee recommended that all three (3) scholarships be awarded this year. Our recipients are Jasmin Escalante Agustin from Onley, on the Eastern Shore. Jasmin plans to attend James Madison University. Sara Lang from Roanoke will attend Bluefield University in the Fall, and Abigail Worrell, from Smithfield, will be a student at the University of Virginia. Abigail's was the only application received that noted referral from a woman's club – specifically the Smithfield Woman's Club. We thank them and all of our clubs who promoted our scholarship program in your local high schools. We will maintain our fourth applicant's paperwork and contact information in case one of our recipients decides not to take advantage of our award.

There was no awardee for the Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship.

It is evident from club reports that the education of our youth and educational advancement opportunities are important to our members. Your Scholarship Committee members are considering ways to encourage and increase funding and look forward to positive reports in the future.



Nancy Vadersen
GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 State Project Chairman
stateproject@gfwcvirginia.org

Thanks to everyone who attended the State Project Service Project at the GFWC Virginia Convention in May! I hope that you enjoyed completing some of the Early Childhood Education projects and assembling kits for the District Presidents to take back to their clubs. Please let me know if you would like to have instructions for those projects or others that are appropriate for children ages birth through five. I am happy to share ideas with you!

Highlighted in this issue are projects from clubs in Northern District. The Herndon Fortnightly Club welcomed Michelle Sullivan, Executive Director of All Ages Read Together (AART), to speak to members about this free preschool program available to 4- and 5-year-olds in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. The program targets children who are ineligible for publicly funded preschools and whose families cannot afford private schools. AART aims to send each child home at the end of the school year with a selection of books to keep and read over the summer. The Woman's Club of Springfield members contributed 153 books to Garfield School classrooms when their thrift shop closed. Additionally, three members helped teachers with the Fall Family Breakfast by preparing trays, assisting children, and engaging with parents. The club also donated \$300 in Amazon gift cards to teachers for classroom supplies. The Woman's Club of Fairfax club members, affectionately known as the "Grandmas," visited two preschool classrooms with a spooky spider craft project and a puppet show. They hosted a Thanksgiving-themed activity, including planting fall bulbs, for which the club purchased \$176 worth of plant bulbs. This spring, members enjoyed seeing the blooms on the plants with the children!

Thank you for your amazing support of the State Project, Early Childhood Education! See you at Conference in August!



Hope Royer
Women's History and Resource Center
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Established by the General Assembly in 2020, **the American Revolution 250 Commission** serves to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) is working with Virginia's localities as they form their own committees to plan local and regionally focused events for the semiquincentennial.



Join the Semiquincentennial Movement and celebrate women's history!!

Women were the driving force behind the boycotts of British goods like tea and cloth. They aided the army as camp followers, helped raise money to support the war, and managed their husbands' estates while they were away. The heroines of the American Revolution were steadfast and dependable. They assisted in every way imaginable- many even risking their own lives and fearing for their personal safety. Get to know some of the lesser known "women of the War": Margaret Cochran Corbin, Mercy Otis Warren, Nancy Hart, Esther DeBerdt Reed and the like. The Journal of the American Revolution is an excellent resource. Subscribe to a weekly news message cost free.



The VA250 **Mobile Museum Experience**, "**Out of Many, One**", takes guests on a journey through the pivotal moments of the American Revolution, from Patrick Henry's legendary 1775 speech—"Give me liberty, or give me death"—to General George Washington's triumph at Yorktown in 1781. A hands-on, interactive, and immersive "museum on wheels," the Mobile Museum Experience is housed in a quad-expandable tractor trailer that is traveling throughout Virginia. You can find its travel schedule at VA250 MobileMuseum.org. Why not apply to get your community on the schedule?

Applications for 2026 are OPEN now through September 1, 2025.

The **Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC)** in Richmond and the **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** have teamed up to present “Give Me Liberty: Virginia & the Forging of a Nation.” These landmark exhibitions are on view through January 4, 2026.

Amanda Paez
GFWC Juniors’ Special Project Advocates For Children
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It may be summer, but advocating for children never gets a break. As we conclude the first year of this administration, I am thrilled with the work our Clubwomen continue to do.

At Convention, Clubwomen supported Advocates for Children by collecting gift cards and cash to tackle food insecurity in Alice Kyle and Lee Districts. Over \$3000 dollars were raised and are currently being distributed. The South Boston-Halifax JWC donated funding to their local high school’s Comet Care Closet and to Feed Halifax.

Also, start planning for Conference! I’ll see you in Staunton – we’ll be collecting coloring books and crayons for Shenandoah and Northern Districts. There will be an Amazon Wishlist available as well.

And finally, Advocates for Children Week is October 19-25. GFWC is committed to continuing its advocacy for children, ensuring that they are protected from harmful situations, encouraged to lead healthy physical and emotional lifestyles, and that policies are impacted to improve their lives. Look out for additional information at Conference on our efforts here in Virginia!



AKD Junior Director Colleen Barnes, Glenn Faulkner, Jessica Rice, John Trent, and South Boston-Halifax JWC President Jamey Harris

Terry Putman
GFWC Virginia Affiliates Coordinator
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Canine Companions opens new property in Mathews, Virginia.



Established in 1975, Canine Companions is the largest non-profit provider of service dogs in the world and offers free support for all those receiving their highly trained dogs. This organization is funded through donations from individuals, community organizations, corporations, and foundations. GFWC has been a supporter of this Affiliate for decades through donations of both time and money.

Recently Virginia became an integral part of this organization’s growth with the grand opening in Mathews, Virginia of Canine Companions’ new property. It is located at the former Eastbrooke Estate and was donated to the organization in 2022 by the Helen and Murray Main Foundation. This 220-acre property will be an extension of the organization’s Northeast region, based in New York. This opening coincided with the 50th anniversary of the organization.

Canine Companions' CEO stated, "Mathews field office will be used for puppy classes, gatherings for puppy raisers, outreach for clients, follow-up visits with veterans, on-site application activities, outreach, and fundraising. Eventually, dogs will be placed with veterans at the site, as well." Virginia, with its significant military population, particularly in Hampton Roads, is an ideal location for this organization's initiative to serve more veterans. Service dogs are placed with veterans having physical and auditory disabilities as well as those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Currently, there is a long waiting list for service dogs and it is hoped this new location will help "get more service dogs to more people more quickly"!



Carol Williams-Mills and Florence Powell
GFWC Virginia Arts Contest Chairmen

artsandcrafts@gfwcvirginia.org

Congratulations to the 2025 GFWC Virginia Arts Contests winners. Overall Best of Show for Art, Needlework, and Crafts: Mary Lee Willis, Southside District- Infant to Teenage Apparel, Needlework. Best of Show for Art: Nancy Allen, Tidewater District- Oil Painting, Art. Best of Show for Needlework: Ellen Corrie, Northern District- Machine- Quilted Quilt, Needlework. Best of Show for Crafts: Juke Myers, Shenandoah District- Holidays, Centerpiece, Crafts.

GFWC Virginia Writing Contests winners: Student Short Story- Grade K-2: Berea Gragg, Southwestern District. Grade 3-5: Samson Gragg, Southwestern District. Grade 6-8: Vivienne Hirt, Shenandoah District. Grade 9-12: Chloe Nunn, Tidewater District. Student Poetry: Grade K-2: Adeline Frances Barker, Shenandoah District. Grade 3-5: Luke Crosby, Shenandoah District. Grade 6-8: Jaclyn Marshall; Shenandoah District. Member Short Story: Janet Jaworski, Northern District. Member Poetry: Sarah Entsminger, Northern District.

GFWC Virginia Photography Contest winners: The World in Pictures- Our World Up Close: JB Brown, Tidewater District. Natural Wonders: Lydia White, Tidewater District. Reflections: Patricia Toler, Northern District. GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit: Helen Barrier, Blue Ridge District. The Writing and Photography winning entries were submitted to the GFWC Contests.

We thank everyone who participated, organized, and helped with these contests at all levels. You make it fun! Now is the time for clubs to start planning for next year's contests. Encourage members to write, craft, take photos, and paint. Seek homeschoolers and school entries for student contests. These activities have valuable mental health benefits. Review the 2024-2026 GFWC Virginia Rules and Instructions for the Arts Contests. We will be at the GFWC Virginia Conference; please let us know your questions, suggestions, and concerns. As always, if you have questions, please call or email us.



Helen Hill
GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman

arts@gfwcvirginia.org

A new club year is fast approaching. Have you prepared your club objectives? A suggestion: How about doing something with live theater? Your club could attend a performance. Better yet, the club could volunteer to work at the theater. Many of our local theaters are not for profit and rely on community volunteers, not only for actors but for costume design, lighting, set building, and much more. They give back to the community through classes and scholarships. Most theater groups put on four plays a season and perhaps an extra performance for a special event. Usually plays are presented on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday matinees. The Little Theater of Norfolk opened its doors in 1926 but did not have a permanent home until 1949 when funds were secured to build a theater that is in use today. The Little Theater of Alexandria started as a

play-reading group in 1934 and became a theater group. Today, it has a theater. The Little Theater of Virginia Beach began in 1948 in the small seaside resort community. A permanent home was found in 1972. Like many old theaters, the Paramount in Charlottesville stood vacant for many years. In 1992 the building was purchased and made into a theater for the performing arts. It would take until 2004 before the theater performed. The Little Theater in Smithfield has a busy schedule of plays with local people playing the parts. There are other theater groups such as the Swift Creek Mill Theater. Yes, it is in a 1663 mill that has been converted into a theater. The volunteer group was organized in 2001. The Blackfriars Theater in Staunton is a Shakespearean Theater that offers plays in a reproduction “Globe” style theater. Other theaters offer plays as well as concerts. To name a few, the Ferguson in Newport News, the Chrysler and Attucks in Norfolk, The Byrd, the Altria (Mosque) in Richmond, and the Lincoln in Marion.

One theater had its roots in the Depression. Money for entertainment was non-existent for many people across the country. Theaters closed putting actors and writers out of work. Robert Porterfield started the Barter Theater in Abingdon with the idea that patrons paid for tickets with food, in other words, they bartered for the tickets. This served two purposes, the people were entertained and the actors and writers had food. The actors lived in a dormitory. Today, the Barter Theater is the longest-running professional equity theater in the United States. These small theaters give actors a start in theatrical work.

This is a glimpse at theaters that your club could attend or volunteer. The idea is for your Woman’s Club to work with an organization that benefits your community.



Sue Trussell

GFWC Virginia Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

civicengagement@gfwcvirginia.org

Summer offers an ideal opportunity for clubs to engage with their communities through hands-on service and outreach. Under GFWC’s Civic Engagement and Outreach program, there are countless ways to make a difference while enjoying the season. Organize a sock or hygiene kit drive for local shelters, lead a neighborhood cleanup or beautification project, or host a flag retirement ceremony in collaboration with veterans’ groups. Consider partnering with local law enforcement for a community safety day, volunteering at a summer lunch program for children, or collecting school supplies for back-to-school readiness. You could also assemble thank-you baskets for first responders, deliver “Birthday Bags” to food pantries, or raise awareness about mental health support for veterans. These projects strengthen our communities and showcase the heart of GFWC service—compassion, action, and connection. Let’s make this summer one of purpose and impact!



Ilia Desjardins

GFWC Virginia Education and Libraries Chairman

education@gfwcvirginia.org

“I don’t have to look far to find treasures. I discover them every time I visit a library.”

– Michael Embry

Did you know the Library of Virginia provides an incredible number of resources for free from the comfort of your own home, and all you need is a library card from your local public library? Find It Virginia (<https://finditva.com>) provides resources for research, legal forms, career coaching, veterans and families, teen learning skills, and homework help for kids. Magzter Digital Magazines, Transparent Language, and Universal Class can help you learn a new skill. MasterFILE and Virginia Chronicle can help you access old newspapers for your search projects. Read It!, Access Video Just For Kids, and Homework HelpNow can prepare your children or grandchildren to do well in school. And your local public library provides even more resources, for free!



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 2024 GFWC Virginia ESO readers read over 550 books, participated in bimonthly book discussions, and we added 16 new pledges! Several readers upgraded from “pledge” to “member” and earned their ESO pins! For our May book discussion, we were joined by author Bainy Cyrus who discussed her book *Tea & Toil At The Woman’s Club* (<https://www.bainycyrus.com/book>), an enlightening view of the history of the Woman’s Club of Norfolk.

The next Book Club Discussion will be on July 15 at 7:30p, and we will be joined by author Mojgan Ghazirad to discuss her book *The House on Sun Street*. (<https://mojganghazirad.com/memoir>). Ms. Ghazirad currently works as a NICU doctor and lives in Great Falls, Virginia with her family. 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@GFWCVirginia.org



Emily Amick

GFWC Virginia Environment Chairman

environment@gfwcvirginia.org

Summer is almost here! Before you know it, it will be time to clean out student backpacks, make vacation plans, or attend your favorite outdoor music concert. Consider the environmental impact your summer activities have. If you have children, when cleaning out backpacks, recycle the paper for future rainy-day craft projects, bookmarks for that summer reading list, or even just a few fun notes. The possibilities are endless here. I attended the GFWC national convention in Atlanta. GFWC Georgia was the most gracious host. Georgia members answered my questions and directed me where to go each day of the 6-day convention. While Atlanta’s weather was mostly warm, we did have at least one overcast day. There were also many native flowers outside the hotel. I even saw a few honeybees! As part of convention “welcome” bags, each convention participant received a reusable water bottle (sponsored by a local lawyer) with a QR code to scan. Every time you filled the bottle and scanned the code with your phone, a two-cent donation was made in your name to a worthy cause. I learned so much at the business sessions. I met clubwomen from many different states including Alaska, Montana, Florida, and Tennessee. When planning a backyard barbecue/celebration, use compostable cutlery and plates. Encourage everyone to bring their own water bottles or cups. Have a water station where party goers can refill their cups, instead of using one-use-only juice pouches with lots of sugar.



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

Hello everyone. I am Maureen Mike, and I'm honored to serve as GFWC Virginia Legislative Chairman. I was born and raised in the Boston Massachusetts area, but I made my way to Virginia in 1979 and settled in Virginia Beach. I quickly fell in love with coastal life and can't imagine living anywhere else now.



It was here in Virginia Beach that I was first introduced to GFWC. I've now been a proud charter member of my club for 35 years, and my journey with GFWC has been one of the best things I've ever done. Currently, I serve as the First Vice President/ Leadership Chairman for the Tidewater District, as well as the Legislative Chair for my club, GFWC Woman's Club of Tidewater. I'm grateful for the opportunities this organization has given me to lead, serve, and grow alongside so many remarkable women.

By the time this publication reaches you, the Primaries will be behind us, and we'll be looking ahead to the General and Special Elections in November. I hope each of you took advantage of the privilege—and responsibility—of voting in the Primary. As members of GFWC and engaged citizens, we are powerful when we use our voices to shape the future of our communities and our country. Let's continue to stay informed, involved, and ready to make a difference at the polls. If you have any questions about voting, registration, or upcoming deadlines, you can find a wealth of information on the Virginia Department of Elections website at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov>. Stay informed and be ready—your voice matters!

The Legislative Alert Center is another powerful way to make your voice heard. If you haven't already, I encourage you to be part of this important advocacy tool. Simply visit [GFWC.org](https://www.gfwc.org), click on Advocacy, and follow the directions under "Get Involved" to sign up. Once registered, you'll receive occasional alerts about key legislative priorities. It takes less than five minutes to respond—and your message goes directly to your Senators and/or Representatives. Your voice matters, and these alerts make it easy to act quickly and effectively.

Most recently, the TAKE IT DOWN bill was passed and signed into law by the President. This is a powerful example of what we can accomplish when we stay engaged and speak out. By passing this bill, lawmakers have taken a significant step toward protecting vulnerable individuals from online exploitation—and it shows the power of collective advocacy when we raise our voices together.

2025 SOUTHEASTERN REGION UPDATE

Before I begin my begging for volunteers, I would like to give you a brief history and description of the GFWC Southeastern Region.

The 8 GFWC Regions were established to give members a chance to meet our GFWC officers and to be a part of the workshops that were held at GFWC Convention. Not everyone can or will attend the annual GFWC Convention but could or would travel to a region meeting closer to their home. The program includes workshops by GFWC Chairmen or committee members, information from GFWC by the attending GFWC officers, and a hands-on project which can be used by individual clubs, districts, or states. It is a chance to meet members from other states and the District of Columbia, learn how they are organized or successful projects/programs, and become friends.

There was a SER newsletter last administration and will continue this administration with one coming out in March. This

has helped promote Southeastern Region, known by most as SER. Prior to that, the regions depended on the state presidents and junior directors. Sometimes they were already overwhelmed and did not talk about the region much until it was their turn to host the meeting which occurs about every six years. No, the regions do not have CSPs; they are an extension of GFWC. Yes, it should be promoted more.

The region Executive Board is made up of the region officers (President, Vice President, Secretary who is Kelly Lane from Virginia, and treasurer), parliamentarian, current state & DC presidents, state & DC directors of juniors and region chairmen. There are 2 meetings a year for the regions, a luncheon meeting held during the annual GFWC Convention and an annual Conference held in the fall rotating host states. Just like our state federation does with districts hosting state meetings and clubs hosting district meetings.

Guess whose turn it is to host the region meeting this year. You are correct, it is Virginia. It will be Wednesday thru Saturday night, October 22-25 at Hotel Roanoke. There are many opportunities throughout the next months and the meeting weekend for you to volunteer. The festivities will begin with tours in downtown Roanoke on Wednesday, a dinner for our state, regional, and GFWC officers, plus others on Thursday evening; the meeting begins on Friday and ends Saturday evening with a banquet. The busiest time for Virginia members will be Friday and Saturday. I have a listing of all the possible volunteering opportunities and your District President has a copy also. Please contact me at kacky3@verizon.net or your District President with your choices. Several of the possibilities include helping or donating items for at the hospitality desk, working with your district on your district assignments (See your District President for details), serving as hostesses at the meals, helping behind the scenes. There is a place for everyone and a chance to get to know fellow GFWC members. We look forward to seeing all of you October 22-25, 2025 at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA.

The hotel reservation link is: Guests have until September 22nd, to make their reservations or until the block sells out, whichever comes first. <https://book.passkey.com/e/50925031>

We must get our reservations in early; we will be competing with a home VA Tech football game on Friday, October 24 and I have already checked with the Hotel about adding rooms and they are totally booked for October 23rd.

District News

Alice Kyle District

Carol Pridgen, President

Colleen Barnes, Third Vice President Director of Junior Clubs

Once again, Alice Kyle District Club members put their “heart” into volunteering and had another successful year of serving their communities. Our district might be small, with only 73 members, club members volunteered 4,222 hours, completed 195 projects and reported a total of \$13,815.69 in Donated and In-Kind Dollar Donations. Ladies, Thank you for all your hard work this year. I look forward to reading and hearing about the plans that have been made for the second year of this administration.

Alice Kyle Fall District meeting was held in October 2024, hosted by Virgilina Woman’s Club and the Spring District meeting held in April 2025, hosted by Blackstone Woman’s Club. During the district meetings, club members continue to support the District Fundraiser by bidding on the “live” basket auction. Each club is asked to bring a basket(s) or item(s) to be auctioned off to help raise money for the district. Blair Trent has been our Auctioneer and does a fantastic job auctioning off the baskets and items.

Alice Kyle District still supports a Summer Camper that is attending Hat Creek Camp which is part of Patrick Henry Family Services, which used to be known as Patrick Henry Boys Plantation. Alice Kyle District has been supporting Patrick Henry Boys Plantation since 1958, when the district raised \$9,050 that was added to a memorial gift fund of \$10,000 to help build the first cottage located on the plantation. The cottage was completed in time to receive the first child on February 1, 1961. This cottage was named the Alice Kyle/Max Kuniansky cottage.

I am still looking for members to fill the vacant Officers positions on the Executive Board. I am hoping once summer is over, and all the district's members are relaxed from vacation, a few members will decide they want help the district by filling an empty position.

Plans have been made to attend the GFWC Virginia Conference in August. Also, plans have been made that Alice Kyle District will be helping with the S.E.R Conference in October. During the convention plans were talked about a possible bus trip to GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for open house in December, this sounds like a fun trip. Fingers crossed, hope this works out.

Take care, keep smiling, enjoy your summer and stay safe...see y'all in August.

Blue Ridge District Camilla Cabaniss, President

Thank you to Laura Huntley, our new webmaster. We appreciate Laura's hard work!

Our Spring district meeting was held on March 22. Attendance was higher than it has been in several years with six of our seven clubs in attendance for a total of 54 members and guests. Our speaker, Emily Reburn, was from The Blue Ridge Hospitality House. Her presentation was amazing and she was presented with over \$1,000 in gift cards from our clubs and members to be used in supporting guests using the Hospitality House's services.

Members of the Blue Ridge District attended the GFWC –Virginia Convention in Richmond and the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta. Both were filled with exciting opportunities for learning, sharing, and having fun with Federation friends from many places.

The Blue Ridge District has an ongoing project to provide sweat suits for victims of sexual violence and abuse by partnering with the Carilion Forensic Nursing Department. Our chairman, Mary Ann Tatman, is busy purchasing 16 sweatsuits to replenish the supply at the hospital. This project is funded by donations from clubs and individuals.

GFWC Bedford Woman's Club, GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club, and GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton have signed up for the 2025 National Day of Service and are working on getting their projects planned and ready to go in September. We have two candidates enrolled for the GFWC Virginia LEADS program in August at the Summer Conference. We can't wait to hear about their experience at our Fall District gathering.

Blue Ridge is looking forward to seeing many of our Federation friends at the Southeastern Conference at the Hotel Roanoke in October. GFWC Virginia is the hostess state and we hope everyone will enjoy a visit to Blue Ridge and a great conference!

GFWC Blue Ridge District will continue "Helping Others, Help Others"!



Guest speaker, Emily Reburn

Lee District

Kelly Lane, President

Danielle Basham, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

Lee District was so excited to host the GFWC VA Convention in Richmond, VA! A big thank you to Tricia Duvall and Joy Matkowsky for coordinating everything. They did an amazing job and it was greatly appreciated. In addition, thank you to all the Lee District clubs that donated centerpieces, favors, meals, and door prizes. Lee District hopes that every attendee had a great time in Richmond.

Lee District, along with Alice Kyle District, was honored to be the recipient of the gift cards at GFWC Virginia Convention organized by the GFWC Virginia Advocates for Children Chairman to support food insecurity in children. The women throughout GFWC Virginia really supported this initiative and we are eternally grateful! The gift cards will be distributed to schools, food banks, and other organizations throughout the district to help children.

We are preparing for the Fall District Meeting to be held at First Baptist Church in Ashland on October 4, 2025. Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President, and Joanne Dixon, GFWC Virginia 3rd Vice-President/Director of Junior Clubs, will be joining us. We are so delighted to spend time with them in our district as we celebrate our 100th anniversary!! Many clubs from the Lee District are signed up to participate in the National Day of Service on September 27th and more plan to join in on the fun. A big impact on Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention will be made. We can't wait to hear all about the amazing projects that the clubs came up with to support this important focus.

Northern District

Yvonne Sening, President

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

What do wide-brimmed hats, pearls, black and white, beads, horses, bingo, pouting crayons, toddlers throwing tantrums, hand turkeys, coffee filter flowers, artwork, early childhood education, fun, frolicking, laughter, a "few" glasses of wine, and lots of ladies have in common? GFWC Virginia Convention, of course! In early May 2025, club women from the Northern District gathered with our federated friends throughout the State to celebrate the 115th GFWC Virginia Convention. And what a FABULOUS time we all had! We "traveled" by bike and by hot air balloon to places near and far, visiting all we as federated sisters hold dear! From celebrating on Friday night with a Black and White themed dinner to a Kentucky Derby on Saturday night, bingo with the juniors, and off to the "races" as our Past Junior Directors challenged each other in a hotly contested horse race, or the culminating "hot air balloon ride" we took with our Past GFWC Virginia Presidents, we reveled in lessons learned from past leaders, enjoyed sage advice, and everyone shared their projects for making our communities a better place to live. Fun, fun, fun!! And as if this wasn't enough, we shared many, many accolades and applause with each other for the many award-winning programs. I am delighted to report that the Northern District, came home with 18 awards in our CSP/Advancement Areas, the Membership Cup Award, the Membership Extension Award, 12 first-place art show awards, 4 second-place art show awards, 3 third-place art show awards, and best in show for needlework! Bravo Northern District!! Job well done!! For those of you who couldn't make Convention this past May, don't be disheartened! Rather, mark your calendars NOW for our upcoming GFWC Virginia Conference on August 8-10, 2025 in Staunton, Virginia. After such an amazing Convention, WHO KNOWS what could happen at Conference??!! Don't miss out on all the fun! In the meantime, while most of us will be taking a well-earned break from normal Club meetings and activities this summer, I urge you all to continue looking for opportunities to BE KIND. Whether it be a warm smile, a hug, or a friendly hello, "[n]o act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." (Aesop).

Shenandoah District

Laura Coburn, President

Summer in Shenandoah is beautiful this year. And energizing! Shenandoah District welcomes you to the GFWC Virginia Conference this year in Staunton. The dates are August 8-9, with LEADS leadership education seminar on August 10. Both the conference and LEADS will be held at Hotel 24 South in downtown Staunton. Downtown Staunton has a lovely walkable historic district with shops, restaurants, and museums. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Our Spring District Meeting was a success. Buena Vista Woman's Club hosted us with a lovely lunch and fresh spring décor. Buena Vista Juniors treated us to a delicious coffee hour before the meeting. Thank you to both clubs for all the effort you made to welcome us and to feed us! In business, a district nominating committee was elected. Chaired by Shelley Undercoffer, the committee members are Emily Amick, Betty Jo Garrett, and Freda Scheuer. District Awards were presented by District First Vice President Ilia Desjardins. This year marked the return of the District Arts Contest. The Writing Contest was a big success again this year. It was a pleasure to see several of those arts and crafts items and writing entries in the GFWC Virginia Arts Contest in the state arts contest at the Convention in May, and many with ribbons on them! Congratulations to all the winners!

News from Clubs: Covington Woman's Club planted a Pinwheel garden in April, welcomed a new member and gave 2 scholarships in May, and participated in their Local Day of Giving annual fundraiser. Lexington Woman's Club had a salsa dance lesson in April, held their annual picnic in May at Boxerwood, and funded a QR code for Boxerwood to enable a guided tour for visitors. The Woman's Club of Greene County celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 1st, gave 3 scholarships, and assisted the local Harley Davidson with registration for "Woman's Ride." Waynesboro/Augusta Woman's Club held a new member orientation for 8 new members and gave 6 scholarships in April, held their annual awards and year-end celebration picnic at a new city park, and gave donations to 4 community organizations in May. Shenandoah District Past Presidents Club looks forward to their September meeting at The Homestead.

Fall District Meeting is October 4 in Covington for a Day of Fellowship and Autumn Splendor! As a district, we will observe GFWC International Day of Service with a focus on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention.

Southside District

Julie Johnson, President

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

What a year Southside clubs have had. GFWC Virginia President Susie Mowry and GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs Joanne Dixon were our guest speakers at our Spring District meeting at Lake Prince Woods, a retirement center in Suffolk, with 90 members in attendance. We announced awards, recognized our District scholarship winner and her parents, and viewed the District Arts & Crafts winners and the other entries. Many of the District winners also won at the Arts & Crafts contest at the GFWC Virginia Convention in Richmond. Thirty Southside members attended. And several members attended the National Convention in Atlanta. We are looking forward to the Conference in Staunton in August. Kings Fork Woman's Club celebrated their 75th anniversary in the fall and The Woman's Club of Windsor celebrated their 95th anniversary in May. Clubs are registering for the GFWC National Day of Service. After awarding scholarships and celebrating the past year's accomplishments with year-end celebrations most Southside clubs are winding down their activities for the summer.

Southwestern District

Amy DeWilde, President

JoBeth Wampler, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

This month, we honor the strength, resilience, and remarkable achievements of women everywhere. As GFWC Women, our mission to empower women is vital to fostering an equitable and vibrant society. When we support each other—through education, opportunity, and encouragement—we become catalysts for meaningful change and progress.

Let us remain committed to advocating for gender equality, celebrating the contributions of women, and inspiring every woman to pursue her dreams and leadership potential. Together, as GFWC Women, we can create a future where every woman is empowered to succeed.

Thank you for your dedication and passion. Let's continue to make a positive difference—because empowered women empower communities.

Tidewater District

Jane May, President

At the GFWC Virginia Convention in Midlothian, Tidewater District had twenty-four members in attendance. Clubs were excited to receive awards and recognition for their efforts. Two district members received individual awards. Nancy Allen was awarded Best of Show for Art for her oil painting. Susan Sasser was awarded Red Star recruited status.

Tidewater is on the go this summer. Five members will attend the GFWC Convention in Atlanta. Maureen Mike, GFWC Virginia Tidewater District First Vice President spread the word about GFWC Virginia LEADS. Five members will attend LEADS in August.

In July we will hold workshops and an informational meeting for all members. Information will include International Day of Service, a state project hands-on project, Google docs how-to, and report writing. We will also share what we learned at GFWC Convention with what happened in Atlanta and did not stay in Atlanta.

The sun is not the only thing that shines in the summer. Tidewater Clubs shine too! They continue to aid their neighbors in need and their communities. Tidewater clubs continue to Bee Kind to Mankind throughout the year. Many clubs are busy planning projects, fundraisers, and events for the fall.

ClubNews

Members of the Hillsville GFWC Women's Club celebrated GFWC Federation Day on Thursday, April 24, by delivering food and supplies to the Joy Ranch Home for Children.



WOMAN'S CLUB OF WINDSOR'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

The Woman's Club of Windsor, Inc. recently celebrated the 95th Anniversary of their club with a dinner of homemade dishes made by the member of the club. The celebration was held at the Windsor Ruritan Building, which was decorated beautifully. Timeline pictures and scrapbooks, through the years, were available for everyone to see.

GFWC Virginia President, Susie Mowry was in attendance, as well as GFWC Southside District President, Julie Johnson. Other invited guests included all district officers and club presidents. Invitations were sent to area businesses who have supported our club in so many ways. Others who have been tremendous supporters of the club are the Chief and Lieutenant of the Windsor Police Department, who attended our celebration.

All but two living past presidents of the club attended the event and were introduced. Several members chose



Convention







**GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee
Recommendations for Amendments
June 2025**

The GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee presents the following recommendations for amendments to GFWC Bylaws for action at Summer Conference 2025.

Article V. Districts, Section 5. Nominations and Elections, C. currently reads:

- C. With the exception of the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, the District Nominating Committee shall nominate the District officers. The name of the nominee(s) for District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs shall be forwarded by the Junior Nominating Committee Chairman to the District Nominating Committee Chairman for inclusion with the officers to be elected at the District Annual Meeting in the second year of an administration. In the absence of a District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman or Junior Nominating Committee, the District Nominating Committee shall nominate the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs. The District Nominating Committee Chairman shall send the names of candidates for District office to the District President within 5 days of nomination. The District President shall append the names of candidates for District office to the Call to the District Annual Meeting.

Proposed Changes:

Edit sentence 4 of the paragraph:

- Strike “of candidates”, insert ‘and status of nominees’
- Strike ‘within 5 days of nomination’, insert ‘immediately following...’

Insert a new sentence 5:

- The District President shall contact nominees regarding their status within 5 days of nomination.

Rationale: To clarify the process.

If adopted shall read:

- C. With the exception of the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, the District Nominating Committee shall nominate the District officers. The name of the nominee(s) for District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs shall be forwarded by the Junior Nominating Committee Chairman to the District Nominating Committee Chairman for inclusion with the officers to be elected at the District Annual Meeting in the second year of an administration. In the absence of a District Junior Nominating Committee Chairman or Junior Nominating Committee, the District Nominating Committee shall nominate the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs. The District Nominating Committee Chairman shall send the names **and status of nominees of candidates** for District office to the District President **immediately following nomination. within 5 days of nomination** **The District President shall contact nominees regarding their status within 5 days of nomination.** The District President shall append the names of candidates for District office to the Call to the District Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 7. Duties of Officers, A. District President currently reads:

Section 7. Duties of Officers

A. The District President shall:

1. Represent the District on the GFWC Virginia Executive Board;

**GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee
Recommendations for Amendments
June 2025**

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 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. Send a roster of District club presidents to GFWC Virginia Headquarters no later than May 15 of each year;
8. Promote the programs of GFWC Virginia within the clubs in the District in conjunction with the District Third Vice President /Director of Junior Clubs;
9. Preside at all meetings of the District;
10. 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;
11. Send the Call to District meetings at least six weeks in advance of the meetings;
12. Appoint a District Parliamentarian;
13. 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;
14. Serve ex-officio on all District committees except the Nominating Committee;
15. 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;
16. Perform other duties as delegated by the District Executive Committee.

Proposed Change:

- Insert new 7. Contact nominees for District Office regarding their status within 5 days of notification by the District Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration;
- Renumber current 7 – 16 to 8 – 17.

Rationale: To formalize responsibilities regarding District Nominations process

If adopted, shall read:

ARTICLE V. DISTRICTS, Section 7. Duties of Officers, A. District President currently reads:

Section 7. Duties of Officers

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;
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

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- 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. Contact nominees for District Office regarding their 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.

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 1. Nominations currently reads

- A. The GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee shall consist of: one member elected by the GFWC Virginia Executive Board to serve as Chairman, the GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee Chairman elected by the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board, and one member from each GFWC Virginia District, elected at a District Meeting in the second year of the administration.
- B. Nominations for all GFWC Virginia officers, except the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, shall be made by the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee. No member of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board or GFWC Officer may serve on the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee.
- C. Nominations for the office of GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs shall be made by the GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee elected as defined in ARTICLE IV, Section 2. A. The GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee Chairman shall forward the name of the nominee(s) for GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs to the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee Chairman.
- D. An effort shall be made to secure distribution of leadership in order to prevent concentration in one geographic area. With exception of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, no more than two members from the same District may serve simultaneously as GFWC Virginia officers.
- E. Nominations for all GFWC Virginia offices may be made from the floor following the report of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee provided consent of the nominee(s) has been

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obtained.

Proposed Changes:

- Append 'No member of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board or GFWC Officer may serve on the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee.' in letter A.
- Strike second sentence of letter B.
- Insert a new D. from Standing Rule 9.C.a. "Any active club member or federated club may submit the name, or names, and qualifications of proposed candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the proposed candidate's District elected member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee no later than November 30 in the second year of the administration."
- Insert a new E from Standing Rule 9.A.b. "At the time of its meeting, the Nominating Committee shall give consideration to members whom the committee deems qualified for Federation leadership, as well as to those submitted through the Districts."
- Current D becomes new F.
- Insert a new G. "Following the deliberations of the Committee, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify the President of the names and status of the nominees. The GFWC Virginia President shall contact nominees of their status within 5 days of notification."
- Insert a new H. "The President shall append the name of candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the Call to the Annual Convention in even numbered years."
- Current E becomes I.

Rationale: To clarify and formalize the Nominations process.

If adopted, shall read:

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 1. Nominations currently reads

- A. The GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee shall consist of: one member elected by the GFWC Virginia Executive Board to serve as Chairman, the GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee Chairman elected by the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board, and one member from each GFWC Virginia District, elected at a District Meeting in the second year of the administration. **No member of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board or GFWC Officer may serve on the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee.**
- B. Nominations for all GFWC Virginia officers, except the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, shall be made by the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee. ~~No member of the GFWC Virginia Executive Board or GFWC Officer may serve on the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee.~~
- C. Nominations for the office of GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs shall be made by the GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee elected as defined in ARTICLE IV, Section 2. A. The GFWC Virginia Junior Nominating Committee Chairman shall forward the name of the nominee(s) for GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs to the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee Chairman.
- D. **Any active club member or federated club may submit the name, or names, and qualifications of proposed candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the proposed candidate's District elected member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee no later than November 30 in the second year of the administration.**
- E. **At the time of its meeting, the Nominating Committee shall give consideration to members whom the committee deems qualified for Federation leadership, as well as to those submitted through the Districts.**

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- F. An effort shall be made to secure distribution of leadership in order to prevent concentration in one geographic area. With exception of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs, no more than two members from the same District may serve simultaneously as GFWC Virginia officers.
- G. Following the deliberations of the Committee, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify the President of the names and status of the nominees. The GFWC Virginia President shall contact nominees of their status within 5 days of notification.
- H. The President shall append the name of candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the Call to the Annual Convention in even numbered years.
- I. Nominations for all GFWC Virginia offices may be made from the floor following the report of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee provided consent of the nominee(s) has been obtained.

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Section 2. Elections

- A. Election of GFWC Virginia officers shall be held at the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention in even-numbered years. Election shall be by ballot. A majority vote shall elect.
- B. Election of GFWC Virginia officers may be held electronically following the guidelines in the GFWC Virginia's adopted parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Proposed Change:

- Insert a new A "In the event of a contested position for election, the candidates shall make a speech regarding her qualifications and the future of the organization prior to the election."
- Current A and B become C and D.

Rationale: To provide candidates for office to address the Convention attendees prior to the election.

If adopted, shall read:

- A. In the event of a contested position for election, the candidates shall make a speech prior to the election.
- B. Election of GFWC Virginia officers shall be held at the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention in even-numbered years. Election shall be by ballot. A majority vote shall elect.
- C. Election of GFWC Virginia officers may be held electronically following the guidelines in the GFWC Virginia's adopted parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Article VIII. Officers, Section 5. Duties of Officers, A. currently reads:

- A. The President shall:
 - 1. Serve as the official representative of GFWC Virginia;
 - 2. Represent GFWC Virginia at all GFWC meetings and submit reports as directed by the GFWC Board of Directors;
 - 3. Appoint GFWC Community Service Program, GFWC Advancement Plans, GFWC Special Programs, GFWC Virginia Special Programs, and GFWC Virginia Standing Committee Chairmen and committee members as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII. No chairman may serve for more than four consecutive years in the same position;
 - 4. Approve all programs of work and supervise activities of GFWC Virginia Standing and Special Committees. All GFWC Virginia projects and programs shall have the approval of

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- the President.;
5. Appoint designated individuals as needed to execute and implement the work of GFWC Virginia;
 6. Manage GFWC Virginia Headquarters in cooperation with the GFWC Virginia Headquarters Committee as defined in Article XVI;
 7. With the cooperation of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs appoint the GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman, GFWC Virginia Standing and Special Committees as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII;
 8. Serve on the Budget and Finance Committee and Endowment Fund Committee with vote;
 9. Serve ex-officio on other committees, without vote;
 10. Not serve ex-officio or in any capacity on the Nominating Committee;
 11. Serve ex-officio on the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board, without vote;
 12. Authorize expenditures within the budget limitations, approve all bills and co-sign all expense vouchers before payment;
 13. Issue a Call to the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention at least six weeks prior to the date of GFWC Virginia Annual Convention;
 14. Issue a Call to the GFWC Virginia Conference at least six weeks prior to the date of GFWC Virginia Conference;
 15. Call and preside at all meetings of the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee and GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
 16. Sign all contracts approved by the GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
 17. Perform other duties as delegated by the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee and GFWC Virginia Executive Board.

Proposed Change:

- Insert new 17. Contact nominees for GFWC Virginia Office regarding their status within 5 days of notification by the Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration;
- Current 17 becomes 18

Rationale: To formalize responsibilities regarding Nominations process

If adopted, shall read:

- A. The President shall:
1. Serve as the official representative of GFWC Virginia;
 2. Represent GFWC Virginia at all GFWC meetings and submit reports as directed by the GFWC Board of Directors;
 3. Appoint GFWC Community Service Program, GFWC Advancement Plans, GFWC Special Programs, GFWC Virginia Special Programs, and GFWC Virginia Standing Committee Chairmen and committee members as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII. No chairman may serve for more than four consecutive years in the same position;
 4. Approve all programs of work and supervise activities of GFWC Virginia Standing and Special Committees. All GFWC Virginia projects and programs shall have the approval of the President.;
 5. Appoint designated individuals as needed to execute and implement the work of GFWC Virginia;
 6. Manage GFWC Virginia Headquarters in cooperation with the GFWC Virginia Headquarters

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Committee as defined in Article XVI;

7. With the cooperation of the GFWC Virginia Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs appoint the GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman, GFWC Virginia Standing and Special Committees as defined in ARTICLE XII and ARTICLE XIII;
8. Serve on the Budget and Finance Committee and Endowment Fund Committee with vote;
9. Serve ex-officio on other committees, without vote;
10. Not serve ex-officio or in any capacity on the Nominating Committee;
11. Serve ex-officio on the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board, without vote;
12. Authorize expenditures within the budget limitations, approve all bills and co-sign all expense vouchers before payment;
13. Issue a Call to the GFWC Virginia Annual Convention at least six weeks prior to the date of GFWC Virginia Annual Convention;
14. Issue a Call to the GFWC Virginia Conference at least six weeks prior to the date of GFWC Virginia Conference;
15. Call and preside at all meetings of the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee and GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
16. Sign all contracts approved by the GFWC Virginia Executive Board;
17. Contact nominees for GFWC Virginia Office regarding their status within 5 days of notification by the Nominating Committee Chairman in the second year of the administration;
18. Perform other duties as delegated by the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee and GFWC Virginia Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIII. STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 3. Bylaws Committee, B. currently reads:

- B. It shall be the duty of the GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee to review GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules during each administration and to propose necessary changes. The GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee shall consider amendments proposed by: the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee; the GFWC Virginia Executive Board; the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board; a District; a District Junior membership, or a club. Such proposals shall be submitted to the GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee Chairman no later than November 15 of each calendar year.

Proposed Change:

- Edit second sentence by inserting “a GFWC Virginia Committee;” after the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board

Rationale: To enable GFWC Virginia Committees to submit recommendations for changes to GFWC Bylaws and Standing Rules.

If adopted shall read:

- B. It shall be the duty of the GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee to review GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules during each administration and to propose necessary changes. The GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee shall consider amendments proposed by: the GFWC Virginia Executive Committee; the GFWC Virginia Executive Board; the GFWC Virginia Junior Executive Board; a GFWC Virginia Committee; a District; a District Junior membership, or a club. Such proposals shall be submitted to the GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee Chairman no later than November 15 of each calendar year.

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Proposed Changes to Standing Rules

The GFWC Virginia Bylaws Committee presents the following recommendations for amendments to GFWC Standing Rules for action at Summer Conference 2025.

STANDING RULES 9. Currently reads:

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND JUNIOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. GENERAL

- a. In the second year of an administration, the GFWC Virginia budget shall include Nominating Committee meeting expenses and committee members' transportation expenses. This meeting may be held electronically following the guidelines in the adopted parliamentary authority, *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- b. At the time of its meeting, the Nominating Committee shall give consideration to women whom the members of the committee deem qualified for Federation leadership, as well as to those submitted through the District.
- c. Consideration shall be given to ensure distribution of leadership in order to prevent concentration of officers in one geographic area.
- d. Following the selection of the slate of officers, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify the President of the results.
- e. The President shall append the name of candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the Call to the Annual Convention in even numbered years.
- f. These rules shall apply in like manner to the Junior Nominating Committee.

B. ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND JUNIOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- a. With the exception of the Nominating Committee Chairman and Junior Nominating Committee Chairman, only those duly elected by the District may serve on the Nominating Committee.
- b. Names of the District member and alternates elected to the Nominating Committee shall be forwarded to Headquarters by the District President no later than November 15 in the second year of the administration. Names of the District Junior member and alternates elected to the Junior Nominating Committee shall be forwarded to Headquarters by the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs or the Junior Nominating Committee Chairman (in the event there is no District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs) no later than November 15 in the second year of the administration.

C. PROPOSAL OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE

- a. Any active club member or federated club may submit the name, or names, and qualifications of proposed candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the proposed candidate's District elected member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee no later than November 30 in the second year of the administration.
- b. The District member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee shall mail or email the names and qualifications of all proposed candidates to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, directed to the Nominating Committee Chairman, no later than December 10 preceding an election year.
- c. The names and qualifications of all proposed candidates shall be mailed or emailed from

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Headquarters at the direction of the Nominating Committee Chairman, to each member of the Nominating Committee no later than December 20 in the second year of the administration.

- d. No endorsement shall be solicited by a candidate or by anyone on the candidate's behalf. No formal announcement of candidacy shall be sent to any member, club or District or be released for publication. Entertainment on a candidate's behalf shall be discouraged.

Proposed Changes:

- Title Strike: AND JUNIOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- A. Strike GENERAL and Replace with NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES
- Strike A. GENERAL items b., c., d., e., f.
- Strike B. in its entirety
- Strike C. in its entirety
- Strike 'all' from C. Proposal for Candidates for Office b.
- Strike 'all' from C. Proposal for Candidates for Office c.
- Current C. Proposal for Candidates for Office b – d become A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES items b - d

Rationale: To streamline and simplify the Standing Rule to focus on the operations of the Nominating Committee. Items related to Nominations are now proposed in the Bylaws. The Junior organization shall determine its own Standing Rules regarding Nominations.

If Adopted Shall Read:

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~~AND JUNIOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE~~

A. ~~GENERAL~~ NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

- a. In the second year of an administration, the GFWC Virginia budget shall include Nominating Committee meeting expenses and committee members' transportation expenses. This meeting may be held electronically following the guidelines in the adopted parliamentary authority, *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- b. The District member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee shall mail or email the names and qualifications of ~~all~~ proposed candidates to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, directed to the Nominating Committee Chairman, no later than December 10 preceding an election year.
- c. The names and qualifications of ~~all~~ proposed candidates shall be mailed or emailed from Headquarters at the direction of the Nominating Committee Chairman, to each member of the Nominating Committee no later than December 20 in the second year of the administration.
- d. No endorsement shall be solicited by a candidate or by anyone on the candidate's behalf. No formal announcement of candidacy shall be sent to any member, club or District or be released for publication. Entertainment on a candidate's behalf shall be discouraged.
- ~~b.—At the time of its meeting, the Nominating Committee shall give consideration to women whom the members of the committee deem qualified for Federation leadership, as well as to those submitted through the District.~~
- ~~c.—Consideration shall be given to ensure distribution of leadership in order to prevent concentration of officers in one geographic area.—(Note for Committee – Already in Bylaws)~~

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- d.—Following the selection of the state of officers, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify the President of the results.
- e.—The President shall append the name of candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the Call to the Annual Convention in even numbered years.
- f.—These rules shall apply in like manner to the Junior Nominating Committee.

B. ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND JUNIOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- a.—With the exception of the Nominating Committee Chairman and Junior Nominating Committee Chairman, only those duly elected by the District may serve on the Nominating Committee.
- b.—Names of the District member and alternates elected to the Nominating Committee shall be forwarded to Headquarters by the District President no later than November 15 in the second year of the administration. Names of the District Junior member and alternates elected to the Junior Nominating Committee shall be forwarded to Headquarters by the District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs or the Junior Nominating Committee Chairman (in the event there is no District Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs) no later than November 15 in the second year of the administration.

C. PROPOSAL OF CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE

- a.—Any active club member or federated club may submit the name, or names, and qualifications of proposed candidates for GFWC Virginia office to the proposed candidate's District elected member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee no later than November 30 in the second year of the administration.
- b.—The District member of the GFWC Virginia Nominating Committee shall mail or email the names and qualifications of all proposed candidates to GFWC Virginia Headquarters, directed to the Nominating Committee Chairman, no later than December 10 preceding an election year.
- c.—The names and qualifications of all proposed candidates shall be mailed or emailed from Headquarters at the direction of the Nominating Committee Chairman, to each member of the Nominating Committee no later than December 20 in the second year of the administration.
- d.—No endorsement shall be solicited by a candidate or by anyone on the candidate's behalf. No formal announcement of candidacy shall be sent to any member, club or District or be released for publication. Entertainment on a candidate's behalf shall be discouraged.

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia

(GFWC Virginia)

August 8-10, 2025

Hotel 24 South, Staunton, VA

CONFERENCE THEME: "Enjoying the Flight"

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

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

Advance registration for meals and attendance shall be made using the online form linked in this publication. Properly completed Registration Forms are to be done online, which will transmit to the GFWC Virginia Credentials Chairman or Junior Chairman. Conference Package registration fee is \$110 for registration after July 16, 2025, please add \$10 per attendee for a total package registration fee of \$120. **Electronic registration with Zeffy.** Detailed instructions are at the end of the Call.

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. **Please bring this Call** with you so that you may follow the discussion on the Bylaws and Standing Rules Revisions as proposed by the Bylaws Committee.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations may be made by individual call-in no later than **Monday, July 14, 2025**. After that date, any additional reservation requests will be honored on a rate and space available basis only. Use the link below to make on-line reservations or call the hotel directly at 540-885-4848 and ask for GFWC Virginia Conference room block. Directions to the hotel are available from the hotel website. Room rates are \$139 per day for single or double occupancy plus applicable taxes. <https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=14254&nights=2&checkin=08/08/2025&group=9792503&lang=en-us&adults=1&childAges=>

Hotel 24 South
24 South Market St
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-4848

ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE – Preliminary Agenda

August 8-10, 2025

Hotel 24 South, Staunton, VA

“Enjoying the Flight”

Friday – August 8, 2025 – Pre-Conference Meetings

1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. Joint Executive Board Meeting

3:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. Registration Open

6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. Cash Bar

6:30p.m. – 9:30p.m. Dinner and Pajama Party/Trivia Night

Join the Joint Executive Boards for dinner and a fun evening in your comfy clothes/pajama’s. Brush up on your GFWC trivia, Early Childhood storybooks, and general “stuff” for a chance to show off your knowledge!

(open to all Conference attendee – separate registration from Conference Package)

9:30p.m. - until Junior Executive Board Meeting

Saturday – August 9, 2025

7:30a.m. – 12:00p.m. Registration Open

8:00a.m. – 9:15a.m. **Breakfast (included in Conference Package)**

Grace – Marolyn Cash

Tabletop Exercise – **Developing Ideas for Early Childhood Education Projects**

9:30a.m. – 10:15a.m. **Opening Session**

Call to Order – Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Thought for the Day – Marolyn Cash, GFWC Virginia Chaplain

Welcome – Hostess District – Shenandoah – Laura Coburn, President

Introductions – Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia President

Greetings – Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary

Preliminary Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Chairman

Recognition of First Time Attendees – Carolyn Fellers, Membership Chairman

Alaina Chaffee, Jr. Membership Chairman

Reports of Officers

Report of Executive Secretary – Heather Craven

Reports of Chairmen

Budget and Finance – Lori Chevalier, Chairman

Endowment – Gloria Worrell, Chairman

Scholarship – Dale Fisher, Chairman

Nominations

State Project update – Nancy Vadersen, Chairman

Bylaws – Lori Rucker, Chairman

10:15a.m. - 11:00a.m. **“Lifting Up Our Leadership Skills to Soar to Success”** – Cynthia Baroody and Lynn Chapman, Leadership Chairmen

11:00p.m. – 11:45a.m. **What Can We Do for Affiliates?**

Hope For Justice

Alzheimer’s Association

St. Jude Children Research Hospital

Operation Smile

Canine Companions For Independence

- 12:00p.m.-1:15p.m. **Lunch (included in Conference Package)**
Grace – Marolyn Cash, Chaplain
Soaring to New Heights in Membership - Carolyn Fellers, Membership
Chairman & Alaina Chaffee, Junior Membership Chairman
GFWC Jennie Award Presentation, Cynthia Baroody, Leadership Chairman
- 1:30p.m. – 2:00p.m. **Guest Speaker – Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary**
- 2:00p.m. – 2:45p.m. **From Ideas to Reality in Advancement Areas Panel:
More Ideas to Help You Soar**
Fundraising
Communications
Legislative
- 2:45p.m. – 3:15p.m. **Revising those Beautiful Bylaws** – Sarah Entsminger, Parliamentarian
- 3:15p.m. – 4:30p.m. **“Marketplace” Conversations with Chairmen**
Network with the Chairmen of our Community Service Programs.
Advancement Plans and Special Projects
Hands on Project – International Day of Service
- 4:30pm. – 5:00p.m. **Closing Session**
Awards Received at 2025 GFWC Convention – President Mowry
HOBY Virginia update, Carol Outten, Coordinator
Legislation Day – Tricia Duvall and Lynn Wherry
International Day of Service Update – President Mowry
Final Credentials Report – Angela Paez, Chairman
Invitation to 2026 GFWC Virginia Annual Convention – Jane May, Tidewater
District President
Announcements & Door Prizes – Judy Middleton, Meetings Chairman
Junior Collect
Collect
- 5:00p.m. **Adjournment**

Sunday – August 10, 2025

8:30a.m.-4:00p.m. GFWC Virginia LEADS – separate selection and registration

Conference Menus

Saturday Breakfast Sandwich Bar
(included in package)

Bacon Egg & Cheese Croissant
Garden Vegetable Scramble
Breakfast Potatoes
Fresh Fruit
Chilled Juices
Freshly Brewed Coffee
& Herbal Teas

Saturday Lunch (included in package)
Cold Salad Buffet

Garden Salad with Choice of dressing
Choice of Warm Rolls with Butter
Shenandoah Chicken Salad (Grilled Chicken Breast, Local
Apples and Toasted Pecans tossed in a light yogurt dressing)
Classic Tuna Salad
De-constructed Potato Salad
Summer Pasta Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad
Chef's Choice of Assorted Cookies or Double Fudge Brownie
Iced Tea/Water

Friday Dinner

(optional – additional charge above package – open to all attendees) \$40

Southwestern Style Seasoned Chicken & Beef
Paired with Colorful Peppers and Onions
Tortillas
Shredded Cheese, Salsa, Jalapenos, Sour Cream
Rice and Beans
Chef's Choice of Dessert
Iced Tea and Water

Saturday Dinner

For anyone staying over for Virginia LEADS, there are a plethora of quaint restaurants in

Staunton to visit

Two favorites to consider:

Mill Street Grill

Depot Grill

**There are many other restaurants close by in
Downtown Staunton**

Sunday Breakfast Buffet

Staying over Saturday Evening?

Pre-purchase a ticket to the Hotel 24 Magnolia South Breakfast Buffet \$22

(save state sales tax!)

Chef's Choice of Daily Offerings to include Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Crisp Smoked Bacon, Breakfast Sausage, Oatmeal with Raisins & Brown Sugar, Fresh Fruit, Yogurt, Freshly Baked Pasties and Orange Juice

Registration using Zeffy

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

Use this link to register for Conference - <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-conference-5>

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.

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

Address Service Requested
JUNE 2025

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