

The Virginia Clubwoman



DECEMBER 2024



Wishing you a Happy Holiday!

*From all of us to all of you
A happy healthy holiday season!*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Susie Mowry
Cynthia Baroody Carolyn Fellers
Joanne Dixon Amy Riggs Lynne Wherry
Sarah Entsminger
Heather Craven, Executive Secretary

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lynn Chapman Jessica Thomas Blair Trent

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS and DIRECTORS OF JUNIOR CLUBS

Carol Pridgen Colleen Barnes Camilla Cabaniss Kelly Lane
Danielle Basham Yvonne Sening Jaclyn Francis Laura Coburn
Allie Surratt Julie Johnson Mary Katherine Steed Amy DeWilde
JoBeth Wampler Jane May

GFWC SPECIAL PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM CHAIRS

Joyce Jolly Amanda Paez Helen Hill Carol Williams-Mills Florence Powell
Sue Trussell Emily Amick Ilia Desjardins Carol Outten Suzanne Williams

GFWC ADVANCEMENT PLANS

Lynn Osborne Cynthia Baroody Celeste Corrigan Tricia Duvall Carolyn Fellers
Jenny Hinegardner Alaina Chaffee Hope Royer Miranda Lester

STANDING COMMITTEES

Lori Chevalier Lori Rocker Angela Paez Michelle Clary Marlene Wine Gloria Worrell
Dale Fisher Trina Behbahani

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROJECT CHAIRS

Terry Putman Sue Vaughn Stephanie Griffin Pat Jeffress Marilyn Cash Kathryn Sowers
Nancy Vadersen Judy Gough Linda Beatty Teresa Craig Judy Middleton Anne Bryant Jean Cobb
Amanda Paez

President's Message

Susie Mowry

president@gfwcvirginia.org

The President's Message—

It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner. For many of us, it is a time for fun and excitement of seeing our families and spending time with the ones we love. However, it is also a time when there are those in our communities who need help and comfort during a time that may not be as joyful. That said, GFWC Virginia understands the importance of helping others as evidenced by the active participation in the GFWC National Day of Service. Individual clubs, as well as districts, came together to provide meals, work at food banks, collect food and other supplies, and stock free pantries. You understood the goal and you put forth an extraordinary effort to help fight food insecurities. Thank you for the work you did and the difference you made. Volunteering is such a fulfilling way to give back, and I wish you happiness and fulfillment in every moment of it!

What a great time Joanne and I have had during our official visits. So far we have visited the Shenandoah and Blue Ridge Districts. During each of the visits, we were treated like visiting royalty. It was exciting to have the opportunity to hear from the CSP chairmen in Shenandoah. It was a great idea to use this meeting as a means of sharing valuable information and ideas and Shenandoah used the time perfectly. Members of the GFWC Shenandoah District Past President's Woman's Club were spectacular hosts for the meeting and as always, Shenandoah members showed us a warm and welcoming meeting. During the Blue Ridge meeting, I was greeted with a Queen Bee ribbon which I wore proudly. This meeting gave each club the chance to talk about past projects, upcoming projects and share GFWC information. The Bedford Woman's Club hosted a spectacular luncheon, and this district should be proud of their astonishing accomplishments. Three official visits are scheduled for next March and the final 3 in Spring 2026.

It was so exciting to have 24 ladies from Virginia attend the Southeastern Region conference in Wilmington, NC. It is always a source of pride to see so many Virginia ladies in positions with SER. From Kelly Lane as secretary to Hope Royer keeping them straight as protocol to Dale Fisher giving a presentation on Women's History and Resource you can be proud of the representation by our Virginia ladies. Our report showed our Director of Junior Clubs and me "traveling" either by bicycle or hot air balloon to our districts, telling of their district projects and then sharing the Virginia Federation's 3 prong approach to the state project...time, talent, and resources. A special thank you to the Virginia ladies who represent us so well. With all of this said, I want to let you all know that Virginia will be hosting the Southeastern Region meeting in October 2025 at the Hotel Roanoke. Before long we will reach out to each district to get help with this awesome undertaking.

In addition to preparing for your holiday season, I hope you are getting prepared for reporting, which as we all know is due January 25th. The amount of work done, money raised, and in-kind contributions each year are amazing. Please take the time to report for your club. The statistics gathered from all your reports help GFWC guide policy and research. By accurately reporting statistics, we build trust, empower decision-makers, and ultimately allow our work to be used in support of the GFWC resolutions.



GFWC VIRGINIA

P.O. Box 8750
 Richmond, Virginia 23226
 Phone: (804) 288-3724
 Email: gfwcvirginia@verizon.net
 Website: www.gfwcvirginia.org

The Virginia Clubwoman

Editor—Pat Jeffress
Editor@gfwcvirginia.org
 Send articles, photos and newsletters

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

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

Deadlines:

February 14, 2025
 June 13, 2025
 August 22, 2025
 November 14, 2025
 February 18, 2026
 June 5, 2026

ON THE COVER

We Rise..

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Director of Junior Clubs Message	3
Officers'/Chairmen's Reports	4-15
District News	15-21

Susie



Joanne Dixon
GFWC Virginia Third Vice President
Director of Junior Clubs
directorofjuniors@gfwcvirginia.org

Hello Virginia Juniors!

It has been a very busy administration so far! I have the privilege to visit the Shenandoah and Blue Ridge Districts this fall. During these meetings, members discussed various ways to address issues affecting children in their communities, such as child abuse prevention, mental health resources, education support, and access to essential services. The discussions underscored the value of partnerships with local agencies and schools to broaden outreach and impact. Through these collaborations, GFWC members are better positioned to identify needs and craft initiatives tailored to each community. The spirit of unity and advocacy displayed during these visits reflects the deep commitment of Virginia's GFWC members to making a difference as they embody the GFWC's core values of volunteerism, cooperation, and service.

Each year, GFWC Virginia members dedicate countless hours to their community service projects, and club year reporting plays a critical role in showcasing these efforts. Through detailed reporting, GFWC clubs across Virginia capture the impact of their volunteer work, highlighting achievements in areas like education, health, civic engagement, and child advocacy. The reports allow members to reflect on their accomplishments, set new goals, and inspire other clubs with innovative project ideas and best practices. I look forward to reading your reports! Please reach out to me or your reporting chairman if you need any assistance. The yearbook has all pertinent dates for reporting.

Serving as the GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs has been a truly rewarding experience. This role has allowed me to work closely with an inspiring group of women who are passionate about service, community improvement, and making a difference. Each project, meeting, and event has shown me the dedication and creativity of our junior members, who constantly strive to find innovative ways to uplift those around them. From organizing community fundraisers to advocating for important causes, our clubs have accomplished so much together, and I'm incredibly proud to have been part of it.

Reflecting on this past year, I feel grateful for the connections made, the friendships built, and the lessons learned. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the power of teamwork and community service. As we look ahead to next year, I am filled with excitement for the future of GFWC Virginia Junior Clubs. I'm confident that with our shared commitment, we'll continue to build on our accomplishments and tackle new challenges. I am excited to support and guide our members in the coming year, and I look forward to seeing the impact we'll make together for our communities and beyond.

Joanne



Cynthia Barody

GFWC Virginia First Vice President/President-elect

firstvp@gfwcvirginia.org

Greetings and salutations to all our GFWC Virginia Members. We hope you are enjoying this mild fall weather and are looking forward to all the holiday festivities coming up soon!

This officer had the privilege of attending the Southeastern Regional Conference at the end of October in Wilmington, North Carolina. Our GFWC Leadership Chair Ann Landis gave a wonderful presentation entitled “Leadership Reimagined” - Seek to educate, engage, and empower members, Stretch out of comfort zones, Dream bigger, stand stronger, Live the Volunteer Spirit! Her four lessons were:

1. Every member wants to acquire knowledge and grow, even if they don't know it!
2. None of us ever thought we would be in our current leadership position. Each “yes” said gave us the skills needed for the next step.
3. All leaders feel like they may not be completely qualified but take the chance anyway.
4. All leaders were new in the beginning but because of the support of the current and past leaders, they succeeded.

In addition, she emphasized the fact that good leaders continue to seek new learning opportunities. Reimagined leaders lead by example and recognize the talents and abilities of others. Together we spur others forward to lead.

One way to improve leadership skills and reimagine and recognize your talents is to attend GFWC LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar). As stated in the GFWC Virginia manual on page 107, “The objective of GFWC LEADS is to identify GFWC members at the level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on a national level.” The due date for the application is January 15, 2025. The criteria and application form are in the GFWC Virginia manual on pages 107 to 109. Please consider applying for this wonderful leadership opportunity, we would love to have applications from every district.

January is also the month for reporting! This is an excellent opportunity for you to highlight all those leadership skills that are being developed and implemented. Let's reimagine and report all those things that make your club stand out in the communities that you serve. Good leaders recognize the strengths and abilities of others and appreciate their importance. Report all the things that your members do, and tell the story about the great work that your members have done. Remember if you are in a district or state office, you should report your leadership hours under your club.

Don't forget to check out the GFWC website for all things you need to know about leadership. The Leadership Toolkit is chocked full of information for you to use. As always, don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

GFWC Virginia Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, Lynn Chapman attended a GFWC LEADS follow-up meeting on Monday, November 11 over Zoom led by GFWC Leadership Committee Chair, Ann Landis. The committee encouraged members to sign up for the Legislative Action Center. As of August 2024, there are only 6,300 members who have signed up, which is only 10% of our nationwide membership! All alerts are sent via email. If you haven't, take time today and register using the following link: <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved>.

May your holidays be safe and happy!



Carolyn Fellers

GFWC Virginia Second Vice President

secondvp@gfwcvirginia.org

Alaina Chaffee

GFWC Virginia Junior Membership Chairman

MembershipJr@gfwcvirginia.org

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Membership Survey online this fall season. The information you have shared is very beneficial to us and will help us define a good place to start to make things better for our organization. We are planning a second survey after the beginning of the year. This will be shorter and focus on solutions to the concerns you have brought forth.

Top concerns had to do with the cost of dues, and the cost to attend meetings regardless of the level of the organization. Keep in mind, each club and district determines what is paid in dues and the amounts are varied. Is your club able to offer a reduced rate for the first year of membership? How about a gift to your club member of the year to help pay her dues? We learned that we need to talk more about what is involved in planning and implementing meetings. Communication is key. It is very important for officers on all levels to share information about what is going on in our organization. To mentor and share experiences. After all, a well-informed clubwoman is better prepared for the tasks at hand and willing to grow into leadership on all levels.

Yes, we want to make meetings worth the trip. Please keep in mind, that we are governed by Roberts Rules of Order. A common practice among multiple civic, volunteer organizations, government, and business boards across our country. That plays a role in how meetings are conducted. However, there are ways we can make meetings more informative, accessible, and interesting. It is important to be open to new ideas while still giving respect to traditions that celebrate who we are and our mission.

Also, a big thank you to your clubs, we are seeing growth and that is a beautiful thing! Keep sending in the new member coupons. Go online to gfwcvirginia.org and click on the link under membership to complete the coupon and submit it. Welcome letters are sent to each new member.

Enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Thank you for your support as we learn grow and work hard to prepare future generations to lead the way in GFWC.

Amy Riggs

GFWC Virginia Secretary

Secretary@gfwcvirginia.org

Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Junior Secretary/Treasurer

secretaryjr@gfwcvirginia.org



Remember the following points in all motions:

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

Some other quick secretary tips:

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

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

Lynne Wherry

GFWC Virginia Treasurer

treasurer@gfwcvirginia.org

Jessica Thomas

GFWC Virginia Secretary/Treasurer

JRtreasurer@gfwcvirginia.org

How do I fill out a motion form?

As the end of the year approaches, it's time to focus on reporting alongside the holiday season! To help make this process smoother, here are some tips for you as treasurer. Start by combining all donations received by each chairman in your club and submitting these totals to your club's reporting chairman as soon as possible. Include all financial activity from January 1 through December 31, 2024, as this will streamline the reporting process for you and your team.

If each chairman has a budget for their committee, now is an excellent time to review those and let each chairman know their remaining budgeted amount as we head into the new year. Also, look at your district and club budgets to see how your club's actual spending aligns with the planned budgets. By December 31, allocate and issue checks to charities for funds from your club's fundraising events this year.

Also, don't forget to pay your club's dues to your district and GFWC Virginia, with GFWC Virginia dues due by January 25, 2025. Be sure to check your district handbook for your district's specific dues deadline. You can also consider making additional contributions from your club—there are suggestions for these on page 79 of your GFWC Virginia Yearbook and further recommendations for Juniors on page 141.

As always, please contact Lynne and Jessica with any treasury-related questions. We're here to support you! Enjoy the holiday season, Happy New Year, and, most importantly, Happy Reporting!

Parliamentary Notes

Sarah Entsminger, PRP

parliamentarian@gfwcvirginia.org

Why should you take the time to create an agenda before the meeting, and send it out to everyone or have copies at the meeting? The answer isn't just that Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised recommends that you write one, although that might be enough on its own to convince you to pull out paper and pencil. Rather, you want to prepare a plan for your meeting that includes all the proposed business, as well as create a road map the meeting will follow. To write a useful agenda, you will need to do some advanced work, which will help you be a better leader. You will want to check with all your officers and chairman to find out who has a report that needs to be given in the meeting, will any of them make recommendations for action by the members, and do they have additional business to consider. You will want to review the minutes of the previous meeting to determine if there is any unfinished business that was carried over to the upcoming meeting. For example, any business that was in process when the meeting was adjourned or an agenda item that was not reached prior to adjournment. Hopefully, you have been made aware of any business that someone plans to bring forward during new business.

Creating an agenda helps to guide your thoughts so you can be assured that you have included all that you know needs to happen in the meeting. Sending it out in advance allows your members to be prepared for discussion or to bring new business. Having a clear plan builds trust with your members as they know what to expect and when the meeting should

adjourn, they also know when they will be allowed to participate. Having an agenda is the best way to avoid “the meeting that never ends” or chaos that does not allow for necessary business to be conducted. You can find information about agendas under the standard order of business in Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, in Brief. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.



Joyce Jolly GFWC Signature Program Chairman

SignatureProgram@gfwcvirginia.org

Human Trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights, involving force, coercion, or fraud to exploit a person into slave labor or sexual exploitation. GFWC has chosen Hope for Justice as an affiliate and supports its mission to bring together freedom from human trafficking and modern slavery with an effective and proven multidisciplinary model. Active programs exist in the US, UK,

Ethiopia and Uganda.

Founded in the UK in 2008, Hope for Justice is now an international charity working around the world. They help victims and survivors directly and bring about long-term change through their work with governments, law enforcement, the business community, and the general public. Their vision is to live in a world free from slavery, and every step of the way towards achieving this ambition is empowered by a global movement of supporters, campaigners, donors, and fundraisers.

Hope for Justice identifies victims of human trafficking by their investigators and outreach teams who work with police and other agencies. They build bridges of trust with the victims to get them out of exploitation.

Survivors are provided with world-class aftercare, both residential and non-residential. Their independent advocacy ensures needs are met and gives the best chance for justice to be done. Through education and community empowerment,

Hope for Justice helps families and vulnerable people to protect themselves against traffickers and the deceptive methods they use to control others.

Hope for Justice successfully reaches approximately 200,000 adults and children a year. Hopefully, with the help of GFWC clubwomen around the world, human trafficking will be greatly reduced or eliminated entirely.

Note: Information was taken from www.hopeforjustice.org

Jean Cobb

GFWC Virginia Community Impact Program Award

cipa@gfwcvirginia.org

Are you still trying to come up with a project for your Community Impact Award? That’s OK, because you still have plenty of time to find something you can do to improve the quality of your community or a need that could be addressed by your club. Yes, we say all the time – everything our club does improves our community, but is there a niche or special need that you can work on?

You are encouraged to develop a project with other partners in your community for a bigger impact and to assist with fundraising. You can only choose one project, based on community need or the Community Connection Initiative from one Special Program Area or Community Service Program. Here are a few questions to consider: What benefits can be



gained by your project? How are you going to fund your project? What is the scope of your project and do you foresee any obstacles? Hopefully, your club will decide on a project that will 'WOW' the judges!

Lynn Osborne

GFWC Virginia Communications and Public Relations Chairman

communications@gfwcvirginia.org

Have you signed up to join the GFWC Advancement and Programs Forum on Facebook? This private Facebook page is a great opportunity to get updates from the GFWC Leadership, Membership, and Communication and Public Relations Chairmen. Once a month, look for these exciting days:

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

Special dates for the month will be posted at the beginning of each month with project ideas. Our goal with each post is to share information and ideas for Your Club!! It is easy to join. Answer a few questions about your GFWC affiliation and an admin from GFWC will approve you for the group. Members can invite other members to join. Help us reach our goal of at least 3,000 members.

To get on the member portal, go to www.gfwc.org, click on member portal in upper right corner of page. Follow the directions to access the member portal. If you are not a member yet, it is very easy to set up your personal login. It does require approval from GFWC headquarters so allow a few days for approval.

DID YOU KNOW? Hashtags are a great way to categorize social media posts, so they show more easily in searches. Clicking on a hash-tagged word in a message shows you other related posts. You can create your own club posts by adding a # in front of a group of letters or words. There is an addition to the GFWC list - #GFWCADVOCACY. Let's Hashtag our Posts!

As you go through the holiday months, please take time for yourself. Life is precious and it's the time we spend with family and friends that keep us going! Wishing you good health and happiness in the New Year!

Miranda Lester

GFWC Virginia Fundraising Chairman

fundraising@gfwcvirginia.org

FALL = FUNDRAISERS! Fall has been a great opportunity for clubs to do some successful fundraising out in the community. Some of the ones I have caught on Facebook are Sedley Woman's Club- Cookie Walk: Raised \$1,500! Selling tickets to pack your own box of homemade cookies. The Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester- Wheelbarrow of Fun: A wheelbarrow was used to hold SEVERAL bottles of various types of alcohol. Raffle tickets were sold for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. (Unique and definitely fun!) Bedford Woman's Club- Holiday Mart, Grundy Woman's Club- Holiday in the Hills, Wytheville Women's Club- Halloween Online Auction, Henry Clay Woman's Club- Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner (YUM!), and James River Junior Woman's Club- Tinsel Town Holiday Bazaar.

Please continue to send emails or messages to me with your club fundraiser information! Now we can start the holiday shenanigans commence. I hope you have a wonderful Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

Email: fundraising@gfwcvirginia.org or mllxray@gmail.com



Linda Beatty
GFWC Virginia Historian
historian@gfwcvirginia.org



As your Historian I am pleased to report to you on a history-making event I was honored to attend celebrating one of our own GFWC sisters – Dr. Rosemary Thomas. On October 18th I spent the day on the campus of Chowan University in Murfreesboro, NC attending the various activities surrounding the inauguration of that school’s 175th anniversary and inducting their 24th president and also their first ever woman president! The day began with a service in the campus chapel followed by lunch in the student’s cafeteria and then the actual inauguration - complete with all the pomp and circumstance -including letters from many state officials, town’s mayor and school officials. One special commendation was a letter advising that in Rosemary’s honor a donation of \$25,000 had been made to the hurricane relief fund. At the conclusion of the inauguration the processional was none other than “Celebration Time”. Later in the evening I was one of the special guests who were invited to have dinner in the President’s lovely home on campus. One of the initiatives of the WHRC is to highlight outstanding women and this was certainly a good example of recognizing one of our own. Rosemary has been a dedicated club member for many years, as has her mother Mary Jo Thomas, who was present along with lots of other clubwomen from many states. In addition to all her academic achievements, Rosemary served at COO of GFWC in Washington, DC. It was exciting to be a part of this historic event – not only for Chowan University and Rosemary, but also for the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. It would be nice if our members would take a moment to drop Rosemary a note of congratulations at her new home on the campus – check Google for the address. **We are WOMEN CELEBRATING WOMEN!**

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.

Again, this year, the annual HOBY Virginia Youth Leadership Seminar will be held on the campus of James Madison University from May 30–June 1, 2025. Planning for this event is well underway and HOBY Virginia looks forward to welcoming rising Juniors from across the Commonwealth. GFWC Virginia Clubs from all eight Districts supported HOBY Ambassadors in 2024.



HOBY Seminar Ambassadors, Counselors, and Directors on the Campus of James Madison University

What is the HOBY Virginia Leadership Seminar: The seminar is HOBY’s flagship program which welcomes school and community-nominated student ambassadors to 3–4-day seminars each spring and summer. Students explore their personal leadership skills and values and practice those skills while collaborating with diverse groups. They leverage their new abilities as they apply the value of service leadership to make a positive impact in their communities. Leadership through Service to others is emphasized and each Ambassador is challenged to return to their community and perform at least 100 hours of Community Service in the upcoming year. Registration for the seminar opened on September 25th, and High School counselors in both public and private schools received registration information for students. So, if you know a student who is a current sophomore, encourage them to request an application package from their school’s guidance department/career center.

If your Club would like to sponsor an ambassador or provide financial support, 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. Just a note, **for submitting your Club Reports**, HOBY activities should be included in

the Civic Engagement and Outreach report.

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!!!!

Marlene Wine

GFWC Virginia Resolutions Chairman

resolutions@gfwcvirginia.org

There are GFWC and Virginia Resolutions for you to review to learn what concerns and actions we have taken over the years. If you find that you have a concern and action you would like for the committee to address----- just send it to me and we will study and contact you.

Dale Fisher

GFWC Virginia Scholarship Program Chairman

scholarships@gfwcvirginia.org

Happy Holidays! Our clubs are always so generous during this time of year providing gifts of food, warm clothing, toys, and personal sundries to those less fortunate in our communities. Let's not forget that GFWC Virginia offers the gift of scholarships to individuals wishing to enhance their education.

This chairman reached out to several of our scholarship recipients from the previous administration.

Caden Viars, recipient of the Mary Macon McGuire Scholarship, available to a Virginia woman returning to school to advance her education and employment, shared that *"the scholarship helped me to be able to finish my Associate's Degree and have a chance to further my education. Now that I have gotten my Associates I plan on transferring to pursue a Bachelor's degree in the fine arts. I would not have been able to do that if I hadn't been awarded your scholarship. Thank you for giving me a chance.."*

The Phyllis V. Roberts Scholarship awardee, Luke Duer stated that *"with this scholarship it allowed me to have some extra money for books and school supplies. It is really important to have the proper books for the classes you're in and many of them even used or rented online books for these classes can get quite pricey. With help from this scholarship I was able to focus on my studies and have all of the materials I needed to succeed at Virginia Tech. Go Hokies!!!"*

So you see, our funds are put to good use and are greatly appreciated. This committee encourages our clubs to contribute what they can to further the education of our future. Donations of any amount may be made via the Annual Club Dues and Contributions Form.

The rules governing our scholarship funds may be found in GFWC Virginia Standing Rule #11 on page 56 of the GFWC Virginia Handbook. The applications follow the Standing Rules. Applications may also be found on the GFWC Virginia website under the "About Us" tab.

The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2025. Please share this educational opportunity with your club members, family, local high schools, and community assistance programs.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." ~ Benjamin Franklin

Nancy Vaderson

GFWC Virginia 2024-2026 State Project Chairman

stateproject@gfwcvirginia.org

Clubs across GFWC Virginia are busy working on activities for the State Project, Early Childhood Education. For this

edition of the Virginia Clubwoman, several projects sponsored by Tidewater District clubs are highlighted.

Clubwomen have filled backpacks with school supplies for kindergarten students, assisted the Armed Services YMCA at their annual photo session by helping children create an American flag ornament before they had their photo taken, partnered with the local library to give participants of the Winter Reading Challenge the opportunity to create their own book using craft supplies, raffled a Christmas lap quilt with the proceeds going to the State Project, partnered with another club to collect plastic for a TREX bench that will be placed at a Title One school as a “buddy bench,” and worked with REACH, Inc., that runs the Big Free Bookstore where anyone, babies to adults, can choose free books. Other clubs have toured the Peake Early Childhood Development Center in Hampton, made plans to purchase equipment for the new Peake Center opening in Newport News in March 2025, donated children’s books and supplies for the Teacher Supply Closet to an elementary school, collected children’s books to distribute at a local clinic, and gathered materials to make pine cone bird feeders with early childhood students. They have even purchased two chick incubators and a book about chickens for a kindergarten class for children with special needs.

As you can see, the possibilities for projects are endless! We thank you for all that you do to support the State Project, and I look forward to hearing more about projects from the other districts in January.



Hope Royer
Women’s History and Resource Center
history@gfwcvirginia.org

GFWC has recently announced its partnership with the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation and its mission to establish the first national monument in Washington, D.C., commemorating women’s fight for the vote, honoring the pioneers of women’s equality. and their historical progress in our nation.

“The General Federation of Women’s Clubs has been a force for good in this country for more than a century,” said Anna Laymon, President and CEO of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation. “GFWC’s commitment to women’s equality began in 1868 when journalist Jane Cunningham Croly attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Because she was a woman, Croly was denied admittance. In response, she formed a women’s club that would eventually become known as the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. GFWC’s history is the history of women’s fight for equity and inclusion, and we are honored to be one more chapter in GFWC’s story.”

In honor of the partnership, GFWC has established the goal to raise \$150,000 for the monument. Please consider a personal and/or club donation to the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation. Recognized GFWC donations may be made online or by mail. By mail, please include GFWC on the memo line, and mail to:
Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation
1201 Connecticut Ave NW Ste 531 PMB 668856
Washington, District of Columbia 20036



WHRC: From the Archives

If you’ve not yet read the WHRC blog issues posted monthly by Joanna Church WHRC Librarian, please do! The topics are informative and insightful. In celebration of the approaching holidays, the November post focuses on club cookbooks in the Archives, Joanna reminds us that the cookbooks are far more than collections of recipes. They “tell us lot about the era in which they were written, what ingredients were available, what cultures were represented in the community, what kinds of events were being held...”



Amanda Paez

GFWC Juniors' Special Project Advocates For Children

advocatesforchildren@gfwcvirginia.org

Shannon Bailey, the GFWC Director of Junior Clubs has said that the guiding concept for the Junior Administration is “Stronger Together.” Joanne Dixon, our GFWC Virginia Third Vice-President and Director of Junior Clubs has the theme of “The Ride of a Lifetime”. Both of these themes highlight the importance of coordination – whether it be working together as a team for a common goal or working the pedals of the bike to move forward.

With coordination in mind and as we move into the holiday season, how can Clubwomen coordinate with other organizations to help children? Are there established holiday programs – like an Angel Tree – that you can support as a Club? Do you host a Christmas toy drive and if so – can you increase the impact of your work by partnering with another club or with another organization like a Lions Club or Pilot Club? This can serve two purposes: increase the impact of your work by helping additional people and by raising awareness of your Club in your community.

Also, start planning ahead! In your post-holiday haze of fruitcake and hot chocolate, think about what you can do after the holidays. There is a lot of emphasis on Christmas and ensuring no child is left out of the joy of the season, but what about the post-holiday return to school? At mid-year, teachers and schools are just as in need of supplies as they were at the start of the year. Find out what your local elementary and middle schools are in need of and host a school supply drive. Make sure classrooms are stocked up on anti-bacterial wipes and tissues. Find out if a school has a care closet and donate winter clothing items.

As we head toward 2025, let us resolve to continue to work.

Terry Putman

GFWC Virginia Affiliates Coordinator

affiliates@gfwcvirginia.org



GFWC's Measles Mission with Shot@Life

Shot@Life is a United Nations Foundation campaign working to ensure everyone in the world has access to lifesaving vaccines and that all children have a shot at life. GFWC has partnered with Shot@Life for 12 years to help educate about global vaccine equity, advocate for immunization programs worldwide, and support the immunization efforts of the United Nations.

GFWC's Measles Mission will help Shot@Life's UN partners provide measles vaccines to children worldwide. This will be a priority over the Get a Shot, Give a Shot campaign. GFWC hopes to protect 16,00 children from measles by this two-year fundraising initiative. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases and kills more than 136,00 people, mostly unvaccinated children, each year. Global measles cases doubled between 2021 and 2022 and continue to surge. Fortunately, measles vaccines are effective and inexpensive. For \$5, a child can receive the 2 doses they need to be protected against the disease for life. To learn how your club can help, go to www.shot@life.org/gfwc-measles

World Polio Day/UN Day

Many of us may remember going to our school gym to receive the polio vaccine on a cube of sugar in the early 1950s. About 16,000 cases of polio (paralytic poliomyelitis) occurred each year in the U.S. in the 20th century compared with none in 2020. The United Nations and programs such as Shot@Life address issues of global health and eradicate many diseases. October 24 was World Polio Day and UN Day. It is both the birthday of the United Nations and of Jonas Salk, who created the first successful vaccine against polio. It has been 30 years since America was declared free of wild polio!



Helen Hill

GFWC Virginia Arts and Culture Chairman

arts@gfwcvirginia.org

What projects have your club completed this fall? Have the members visited museums, and art galleries or attended a play or concert? These are all fun projects that members certainly enjoy. What

service projects has the club completed? Reporting time is almost here. Don't forget, that reporting will include the activities of the previous administration from January to May. The chairman will need to check with the previous chairman to get the necessary information.

How about some suggestions in case there is a need for a project? What customs have immigrants brought to our country? Study the effects of Chinese immigration in the mid-19th century, Irish migration in the early 20th century, or Italian migration that closely followed the Irish. Other people came from all over Europe in smaller numbers, bringing their customs as well. Another suggestion, study the customs brought by the colonists. Workshops could teach a craft.

Student Art Month is in March, plan activities for the schools in your area. Hold a student art exhibit inviting teachers, parents, and the public to attend. A note, your members will enjoy the expressions on the faces of those attending. How about giving a concert for students. High school orchestras could perform for the lower grades, or an orchestra could perform for all. The club could hold a fundraiser to purchase needed equipment for the school's Art Department.

In all that you do, remember to include fun and enjoy the sisterhood that surely follows.



Sue Trussell

GFWC Virginia Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

civicengagement@gfwcvirginia.org

Empowering Our Communities: The Role of Preparedness in Civic Engagement

As members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Virginia (GFWC VA), our commitment to civic engagement extends beyond community projects and volunteerism—it includes ensuring that our neighbors are prepared for whatever challenges may come their way. One aspect of our outreach efforts is promoting disaster preparedness and helping our communities develop resilience in the face of unexpected emergencies.

The Importance of Being Prepared

Natural disasters, whether hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, or winter storms, can strike at any time and with little warning. Preparedness is not just about having supplies on hand; it's about having a plan, staying informed, and knowing how to act quickly to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

Ways GFWC VA Volunteers Can Lead the Way in Disaster Preparedness

- 1. Host a Preparedness Workshop:** Organize a community event in partnership with local emergency services. Focus on key topics like creating a family emergency plan, assembling a disaster supply kit, and understanding local evacuation routes.
- 2. Create Emergency Kits:** Encourage club members and their families to put together emergency kits. Basic supplies include water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, first aid supplies, and essential medications. Consider creating additional kits for vulnerable community members, such as the elderly or those with disabilities.
- 3. Support Local First Responders:** Build strong connections with local first responders and emergency management teams. Host a "Thank You" event for police, fire, and EMS personnel, or organize a supply drive to help them be better equipped during emergencies.
- 4. Promote Preparedness Resources:** Share information about preparedness resources, such as FEMA's Ready.gov

website, which provides valuable guidance on planning for disasters, creating communication plans, and building emergency kits. Utilize club newsletters, social media, and community bulletin boards to spread the word.

5. Educate on Weather Safety: Provide educational sessions on severe weather safety. Teach community members how to identify signs of severe weather, use weather apps for timely alerts, and practice safe responses like seeking shelter during a tornado warning.

6. Encourage Community Resilience: Empower your community by encouraging neighbors to check on each other before, during, and after a disaster. Being prepared means not only safeguarding your own household but also supporting those around you who may need help.

Looking Forward Together

As GFWC VA volunteers, we have the unique ability to lead by example and spread a message of preparedness throughout our communities. By planning ahead and taking proactive steps, we can help mitigate the impacts of disasters and ensure that our families and neighbors are ready for anything.

Remember, preparedness is a form of civic duty, and it's one more way we can contribute to the safety and well-being of those we serve. Let's work together to make disaster readiness a priority for our clubs and our communities.



Ilia Desjardins

GFWC Virginia Education and Libraries Chairman

education@gfwcvirginia.org

“Education isn't something you can finish.” Isaac Asimov

As residents of Virginia, we are incredibly lucky that we are so close to Washington D.C., and the marvelous Library of Congress! But did you know there are actually several buildings that make up the Library? The main building is the Jefferson Building, an opulent marble structure with sculptures, mosaics, and one of the last remaining copies of the Gutenberg Bible. They provide daily guided tours, a research and reading room, and several rotating exhibits. The Adams building is decorated with an Art Deco style, and the Madison building has a late 70s vibe, but these are mostly office buildings. But with all libraries, they are completely free and full of knowledge! Clubs can visit the Library, schedule a private guided tour, and even create their own scavenger hunt to find special secrets hidden within.

If you can't make it to Washington D.C., you can at least visit your own local public library. Libraries have more than just books! Attend the programs they offer, look into their children's events, and check out their alternative collections. Some libraries offer items for loan that you would never think of! Cake pans, seeds, telescopes, musical instruments, internet hotspots, museum passes, and libraries in Virginia offer a free Virginia State Parks pass so you and your family can visit the 43 State Parks... for free!

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five. Every month a child receives a free age-appropriate book, so by the time they are five years old they will have their own home library! Your club can help by reaching out to your local Imagination Library partner and making a financial donation. If you don't have a local partner, consider becoming one! For more information, check out the Dolly Parton Imagination Library: www.ImaginationLibrary.com

No matter your age, your education will always continue. As Clubs began springing up in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many clubs leaned toward civic betterment, self-improvement, and general education for their members. So be sure to share your knowledge with fellow club members, your neighbors, and the youth of your community.





ESO

Ilia Desjardins

eso@gfwcvirginia.org

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

Established in 1928, ESO strives to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. All club members are eligible to join but must complete a pledge application and pay the required dues of \$1.50. Pledges read books in various genres and work their way up through the levels, becoming a member and reaching star level, torch level, century level, and the diamond level- having read 1,000 books! Book totals are cumulative from year to year, and you can join the ESO at any time. The GFWC Virginia ESO has an optional bi-monthly Book Club Discussion via Zoom on the third Tuesday at 7:30pm. The next Book Club Discussion will be January 21st and will be discussing *The Homecoming* by Kate Morton. The following meetings will be March 18, May 20, and July 15.

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

Hello! My name is Emily Amick, and I am so proud to be serving GFWC Virginia as the Environment Chairman. I am a member of the

Covington Woman’s Club of GFWC, where I serve as technology coordinator, fundraising chair, and art chair. I joined CWC in 2022. My great aunt and mother were members before me. The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are literally right outside my doorstep. I plan to get my club involved with more things that have an environmental impact and look forward to sharing project ideas with GFWC Virginia clubwomen in future GFWC Virginia Clubwoman articles.



District Environment Chairmen, please send any mailed reports to my address below:
7918 Dunlap Creek Road, Covington Virginia 24426

GFWC Virginia commemorates 35 years of volunteer service at the Virginia State Fair in the area of Education Exposition.

District News

Alice Kyle District

Carol Pridgen, President

Colleen Barnes, Third Vice President Director of Junior Clubs



“Education isn’t something you can finish.” Isaac Asimov

As residents of Virginia, we are incredibly lucky that we are so close to Washington D.C., and the marvelous Library of Congress! But did you know there are actually several buildings that make up the Library? The main building is the

Jefferson Building, an opulent marble structure with sculptures, mosaics, and one of the last remaining copies of The Alice Kyle District Club members are off to a great start for having another successful year of serving their communities. All club members have met and made plans for projects and fundraisers to help assist in reaching their task of serving others. Alice Klye Fall District meeting was held on October 21, 2024, hosted by Virgilina Woman's Club at Florence Avenue Baptist Church in Oxford, NC. We had six of the district's seven clubs in attendance. Virgilina Woman's Club members provided light breakfast items and beverages during our registration time. At noon we were served a box lunch that had been prepared by club members. Everyone enjoyed their delicious lunch and the time to get reacquainted with old friends and time to make one or two new friends.

During the meeting, the Alice Kyle District project was approved to continue to support a "Summer Camper or Campers" at Hat Creek Camp, for the 2024-2026 administration. Hat Creek Camp is part of Patrick Henry Family Services. Each club president had the opportunity to share a few of their club's projects that had been planned to help their community this year. At different times during the meeting, raffle ticket numbers were drawn for new GFWC Virginia tote bags, pens, and a chance to win one of the two Dogwood Buds. After all board recommendations were made, adopted, or defeated, and all Alice Kyle District business had been completed, it was time for the fun to start with our "Live Basket Auction". Sometimes, this is where you could lose those new friends you made earlier in the day. Blair Trent was our Auctioneer and did a fantastic job auctioning off the baskets and items. I learned one thing, Junior members love "WINE". If a basket has wine in it... a Junior member will bid on it until she wins (which is great for AKD). The Live Basket Auction is the only fundraiser that Alice Kyle District has that raises funds for the district's operating expenses. Each club is asked to bring a basket(s) or item(s) to go along with the theme of that meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the first Alice Kyle District meeting of the 2024-2026 administration.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year... no matter what your plans are for the Holidays, enjoy every minute, even if you are standing in a long line waiting to see Santa!
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Alice Kyle District Juniors are off to a strong start in the 2024-26 administration!

Clubs returned to their regular fall meeting schedules in September, inducting new members and voting on projects to take on for the coming year.

In October, members of the South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club and the Farmville Junior Woman's Club attended the Fall AKD meeting, hosted by the Virgilina Women's Club. The Juniors participated in the business of the day, brought and bid on items in the basket auction held to raise funds for district operating expenses, and enjoyed the hospitality of our fellow AKD members.

At that meeting, the AKD Juniors also held their executive board meeting, approving a budget and new fundraising initiatives as well as discussing upcoming nominations for district committees.

As a member of the South Boston-Halifax Junior Woman's Club, I am thrilled about all of the ladies who recently joined ESO and all of the upcoming book conversations we can have! We are also collecting wine corks to recycle through CorkClub, so some of our meeting refreshments will serve a larger purpose.

As always, I am honored and enthusiastic to participate in all of the work our clubs and district take on to benefit our communities.

Blue Ridge District

Camilla Cabaniss, President

What a beautiful and busy Fall we have had in the Blue Ridge District! Five of our clubs Bedford, Botetourt, Roanoke County, Bent Mountain, and Vinton, participated in the National Day of Service. We enjoyed a wonderful weekend with our GFWC-VA officers for our district meeting in October. The tour of the Bedford Boys Tribute Center was so interesting. We had good fellowship, and good food, and gathered a trunk load of cleaning and office supplies for Children's Assistive

Technology Services (C.A.T.S.) Four of our members attended S.E.R. in Wilmington and members participated in the first two GFWC seminars this fall!

I am so proud of our Blue Ridge clubs. They have been very engaged in their communities. Many of the activities have been shared on their club Facebook pages and on the GFWC-VA page.

The GFWC Bedford Woman's Club celebrated the 80th anniversary of D-Day by presenting a program to honor the "Forgotten Warriors". It was a salute to the military women and those women on the home front, with special attention to the women of Bedford County. These women either served in the military, worked for the government, in factories, or on farms. Several families related what a female family member had done during the war. Artifacts, biographies, pictures, and books were on display at the Bedford Boys Tribute Center and open to the public during the three-day celebration. The GFWC Botetourt Town and Country Woman's Club made homemade holiday cards for America's deployed troops and new recruits. Several club members put together the "kits" for making the cards prior to the October meeting. The kits used green paint chip samples, green ribbons, glue sticks, and markers!

GFWC Roanoke County Woman's Club held a "pillow fight" in October. New pillows were collected for the Family Promise program in our area. They also continued their support for the "Hallowheels" celebration for C.A.T.S. with a \$1,000 donation. Thanksgiving cards for Veterans were prepared and delivered after the November meeting.

GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton supported Vinton's first Pink Warrior Walk which had over 200 entries! They sponsored and manned the watering station during the race and made a donation. Vinton club members continue to recognize the first responders of the community each month and continue to support the Blessing Box with food donations monthly. They are preparing to participate in the annual Festival of Trees by decorating a tree and sponsoring the cookies for children. This helps with promoting the club's name in the community.

The GFWC Blacksburg Juniors helped with the build of a house with Habitat for Humanity and are in the process of conducting a diaper drive to support the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club celebrated its 75th anniversary on October 26! They have supported a blood drive and the pancake dinner for the Bent Mountain Fire and Rescue Squad. The club is holding a raffle of a beautiful crocheted shawl created by two members to benefit the Giles County Hurricane Victims! And now, members are preparing for the Christmas Festival at Bent Mountain Center on December 7th.

GFWC Floyd County Woman's Club held a successful Fall Arts and Crafts show which supports their efforts to supply books for children in rural areas. Blue Ridge District is truly "Helping Others Help Others" in so many ways every day.

Lee District

Kelly Lane, President

Danielle Basham, Third Vice President, Director of Junior Clubs

The Lee District Fall Meeting was a dessert meeting held on Sunday afternoon, after church, October 13th at First Baptist Church in Ashland. The afternoon allowed time to visit a Leadership Chairman's Workshop where the chairman of the Community Service Programs, and other programs decorated tables representing their areas of interest and provided packets for each club.

The guest speakers were individuals from the Alzheimer's Association and presented information on opportunities to participate in the local walk, volunteer opportunities, and project ideas.

Members participated in a puzzle exchange, where they could bring puzzles and take home new puzzles. The Annual Meeting will offer members another opportunity to participate in a puzzle exchange.

Attendees decorated puzzle pieces with their names and clubs, representing all clubs working together in the district. The puzzle pieces will be assembled over the administration and presented during the last Annual Meeting in 2026.

Northern District

Yvonne Sening, President

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

Greetings from the Northern District! Our members began the new GFWC calendar year by embracing GFWC's National Day of Service to fight food insecurity by organizing food drives, donating to food pantries, and serving in community food kitchens. Taking things up a notch, members of the Junior Woman's Club of Loudoun organized a food drive competition! The Juniors challenged other Northern District clubs to collect food items at their September meeting. To say that the competition was a resounding success would be an understatement! Seven clubs stepped up and collected 1,750 pounds of food, with GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club winning the competition by collecting 558 pounds! NICE job ladies!

District members welcomed the fall season in a sea of orange to support bullying prevention at our Fall meeting in Fairfax, VA. Seeking to raise awareness of National Bullying Prevention Month by wearing orange apparel, members learned about random acts of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. The meeting concluded with a Kindness Rock painting activity which allowed club members to paint "kindness rocks" and then take back their rocks inscribed with inspirational messages to decorate their local communities. If you're in the Northern District area, keep your eyes open for colorful rocks! You just might find a fellow GFWC member's kindness rock left behind to spread cheer!



As we approach the holiday season, Northern District members are preparing to make a difference in their communities by spreading thankfulness and joy to others by adopting families for the season, wrapping presents, baking, performing random acts of kindness, and of course, living in the volunteer spirit! Speaking of spirit, if you are in the neighborhood, Northern District members would love to see you all at GFWC National's Holiday Open House!! Come say "Hi"!

Happiest of Holidays to you all!!

Shenandoah District

Laura Coburn, President

Allie Surratt, Third Vice President/Junior Director



Fall in Shenandoah has been both beautiful and busy. Lexington Woman's Club hosted a Veterans Day ceremony at the historic Lexington Presbyterian Church. with the Mayor, State Senator, Delegate and the VMI Commandant of Cadets present. A highlight was 3rd graders singing patriotic songs and two 6th graders who brought many to tears when they recited their winning essays on what The Pledge of Allegiance means to them. The event made the front page of the local newspaper, and there were a few inquiries about how to join the club!

Past Presidents Club hosted the District meeting in Charlottesville on September 28. In attendance were Susie Mowry, GFWC Virginia State President and Joanne Dixon, GFWC Virginia 3rd Vice President and Director of Junior Clubs. 45 people were in attendance. The service project for the district meeting was a collection of toiletries for middle schoolers.

Waynesboro/Augusta Woman's Club again hosted refreshments for the artists at the Fall Foliage Art Show, a popular juried show. The National Day of Service project was a collection for a local food pantry that requested diapers and wipes. Members trekked to Winchester on November 8 to tour The Trex Company, manufacturers of composite lumber.

The club has participated in collecting recyclable plastic bags for Trex. While in Winchester, a traditional British tea experience at The Tea Cart in the Old Water Street Inn was enjoyed. Fundraiser lunches are planned for the Wounded Warrior Project in November and for the club's scholarship fund in December.

Staunton/Augusta Juniors are preparing for their annual Christmas ornament sale, a proven successful fundraiser. In September the club met at Magnolia Rose retail store, operating to help fund their mission of providing an emergency shelter for victims of sex trafficking. Please visit and shop when you come to Staunton for the 2025 GFWC Virginia Annual Conference!



Covington Woman's Club also sells ornaments, Boys Home Chapel, for \$25. Their NDS project collected 117 pounds of food and \$100 for 2 local food banks. They also work with Meals on Wheels and plan to have a February food drive "Soup for Seniors."



Woman's Club of Greene County held its annual Helping Hands Holiday Craft Bazaar with 50 vendors and 600 attendees to raise funds for their Christmas gifts project for those in need.

Wishing Happy Holidays to all!



Southside District

Julie Johnson, President

Mary Katherine Steed, Third Vice President/Junior Director

Seventy-four Southside members attended our fall district meeting at the 4-H Center in Wakefield. The speaker from LifeNet Health, our District Project, explained the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and encouraged us to sign up online. Two baskets of gift cards were raffled to raise money for the district project. In support of the state project Early Childhood Education, The WC of Smithfield decorated the tables with boxes of crayons, coloring books, flashcards, and children's books which they later donated to their local daycare center. GFWC Junto WC adopted a local unaffiliated preschool and two members took in caterpillars and read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to the children.

Julie Johnson

Members have signed up to go read to them several times each month. A member's husband is building a Little Library for them and the club will donate books for it. Riparian WC handed out candy to children, as well as flyers for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at the police station during their local "Blue Halloween."

Clubs participated in various ways in the GFWC National Day of Service. Riparian WC adopted 3 "little pantries" in their town and kept them filled for one week. Several clubs donated nonperishable food to their local food pantries.

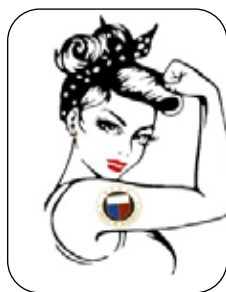
Helping their communities continues to be a priority for Southside clubs. Kings Fork WC purchased and wrapped gifts for the adults at the Genieve Shelter, a sanctuary for victims of domestic violence. The Junior Woman's Club of Hopewell donated Thanksgiving bags to their local ministry for the food insecure and continues to collect coloring books, crayons, word searches, and other activity books for ER patients at their local hospital. GFWC Sedley WC helped sponsor Trunk

or Treat at a local trailer park where about 75 underprivileged children live, and they have donated 100 toys for them for

Christmas. The WC of Smithfield held an online campaign to raise funds for St. Jude’s Research Hospital and are collecting Toys for Tots. GFWC Swift Creek WC collected winter coats for Crater Hospice and is signing 100-holiday greeting cards for patients at a local hospital. They will provide gifts for a local family with 2 children. GFWC Junto WC filled stockings for the Salvation Army and donated Angel Tree gifts. The WC of Prince George County will hold a Tree Trimming Event with a local elementary school at their County Administrative Building. The Woman’s Club of Windsor picked up trash along a street in their town and will have a float in their local Christmas parade.

Clubs have been busy with fundraisers. The WC of Smithfield sold their 42nd edition of their Local Calendar, printed locally and supporting local artists, and other crafts at their Farmers Market. The WC of Prince George County held craft Thursdays in September to make items for the several November craft fundraising events they participated in. GFWC Junto WC had a bake sale at the 42-mile Yard Sale on 460. The Junior Woman’s Club of James River held its annual Tinsel Town crafts fundraiser. GFWC Swift Creek WC sold and delivered roast pork butts. GFWC Tarrara WC raised money for their spring scholarship selling a variety of items at their local fall festival. The Woman’s Club of Windsor made and sold chicken salad and pimento cheese and raffled a quilt made by their members at their annual craft show and sale. GFWC Sedley WC is selling letters from Santa and will have its annual Cookie Walk fundraiser in December.

Five clubs welcomed a total of 21 new members this fall, including Kings Fork WC which inducted the most--8 new members. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Southside!



Southwestern District

Amy DeWilde, President

JoBeth Wampler, Third Vice President/Director of Junior Clubs

I just want to say how much I love being a part of GFWC VA. I can not put into words how much it meant to me and our Southwestern District ladies when clubs all over VA reached out to us during

Hurricane Helene. Within hours of hearing of the devastation hurricane Helene left, we received so many emails, calls, text messages, and even FaceBook posts wanting to know what needed to be done, what supplies we needed, and were to sent monetary donations.

Thank you ALL so very much!!

Southwestern clubs not only participated in National Day of Service, where they held multiple food drives and volunteered cooking meals. They also stepped into help local churches and fire departments collecting food, water, cleaning supplies and helped set up shelters for people that were displaced from all the flooding. They also helped volunteer to cook meals for the first responders. These ladies have went above and beyond during all this. I am extremely lucky and proud to be President of the Southwestern District!! There is no doubt “WE GOT THIS”



Sending warm wishes for your holiday season!

Things have somewhat gotten back to normal just in time for all the Beauty Pageants, parades, craft shows and all the holiday decorating. Not to mention shopping, baking, families, and Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Tidewater District Jane May, President

Tidewater clubwomen have been busy bees this fall. Sixteen clubs (16) attended the fall district meeting. District chairs presented workshops for attendees. Attendees completed critique sheets to help plan future meetings.

Since our district meeting and GFWC National Day of Service occurred on the same day, we added the National Day of Service to our agenda. Clubs brought a total of 510 lbs. of food. The food donations were assembled into 50 meal kits to provide 210 servings of chicken casserole or 7 Can Taco Soup. Each kit included a recipe card. The meal kits were delivered to Thrive, a local food bank. They are a popular item and went quickly. Many of our clubs also held National Day of Service activities addressing food insecurity.

The clubs have been busy raising funds to benefit their community projects. A few of the fundraisers were bottle auctions rummage sales, dinners, craft events, craft markets, dinners, and card parties. Clubs have also worked at community festivals to raise funds.

In preparation for reporting, our district reporting chair will conduct a club workshop and a district chair workshop via Zoom.

We are happy that GFWC Virginia State President, Susie Mowry and GFWC Virginia Third Vice President, Joanne Dixon will join us for our 2025 Spring District Meeting.

Club News

The **80th Anniversary of the Woman's Club of Loudoun** was celebrated on October 26, 2024, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Leesburg. Proclamations from Governor Youngkin, Representative Jennifer Wexton, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, The Leesburg Town Council, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs were on display. A reception was followed with the introductions of guests, Anniversary committee members, and a summary of the Club's accomplishments during the last eighty years. Guests were then invited to a viewing of the Woman's Club of Loudoun memorabilia. Easels held posters containing information about what the club was doing during each decade of existence as well as a poster showing what was occurring in the world during the same period. A mannequin dressed in period clothing was placed next to each display and a picture board displayed photos and memorabilia from the 1940-current day.

Submitted by Ann Livoti, Chairman of the Anniversary Committee
GFWC VA Northern District Woman's Club of Loudoun





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
DECEMBER 2024

In This Issue:

President's Message	2
Director of Junior Clubs Message	3
Chairmen's/Officer's Reports	4-15
District News	15-21



THE VIRGINIA CLUBWOMAN
2024-2025 SUBSCRIPTION FORM
Please make copies and distribute to club members.
Cost is \$15.00 for a 1 year subscription.

NAME _____
First name only-no prefix Last name

ADDRESS _____

CLUB _____ DISTRICT _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Attach your check made payable to "GFWC Virginia" for \$15.00 for each 1 year subscription. You may attach a list. Return your check and form to: GFWC Virginia Headquarters P.O. Box 8750 Richmond, VA 23226