



WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

ADVANCEMENT PLAN

WHRC: Preserve, Promote, and Inspire

2020-2022 Emphasis: Encourage member participation in diverse club and community projects developed to preserve the past, promote the present, and inspire the future.

From the Federation's founding in 1890, GFWC members have understood the historic significance of the organization's mission to improve communities through volunteer service. The Women's History and Resource Center of the General Federation of Women's Clubs officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 1984.

Regardless of the focus of a community service project, it may benefit from an historical perspective. The WHRC strives to educate and inspire GFWC members and potential members, the research community, and the public to explore the rich, historical role of women volunteers through GFWC's expansive collections.

The WHRC offers access to readily available reference services, an online research catalog, educational programs and publications, creative exhibits, and dynamic partnerships to all those interested in using its resources. Benefits of membership made possible through the WHRC include preservation of historic records, buildings, and artifacts; and creative ways to use GFWC's history for community outreach.

GFWC's history is full of examples of successful projects that demonstrate the important relationship between grassroots and international efforts, the significance of long-range planning and thoughtful organization, and the value of community service in developing strong and compassionate leaders.

The *GFWC Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Guide* encourages every club to investigate and document its own history by learning about GFWC's past. Use the guide to explore and share GFWC's amazing history while documenting your own!



2020-2022 WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER COMMITTEE

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OVERVIEW OF GFWC COLLECTIONS

The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center manages the organizational archives of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, related special collections, and a complementary research library. Our Archives document GFWC's historical development from 1890 to the present, including the role of GFWC clubwomen in promoting education, leadership, and social and political advocacy in the broad programmatic areas of art and literature, conservation, personal and public education, public and international affairs, and home and community life. GFWC members encompass some of the most prominent women of their respective eras, including Julia Ward Howe, Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, Alice Lakey, Mary Belle King Sherman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Margaret Chase Smith.

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER

GFWC programs have included advocacy for women's suffrage, child labor and juvenile court laws, community and family health reform, the establishment of national parks, the preservation of Native American culture, peacetime uses of technology, libraries and literacy, wartime service, the Equal Rights Amendment, and international humanitarian efforts.

Special Collections held by the WHRC include State Federation and club histories, oral histories, photographs, and art and artifacts. GFWC's most significant "artifact" is its Washington, D.C. Headquarters, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

GFWC's Research Library consists of nearly 5,000 publications that provide a broad context for researching the history of GFWC and women volunteers. The GFWC Collections Management Policy, which defines how GFWC collections are acquired, managed, and preserved, can be found at www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do-WHRC.

HOW DOES THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER SUPPORT MY CLUB?

- WHRC can help you preserve your club's archives, record the oral history of longtime members, and write an engaging historical narrative. The WHRC has prepared two guidelines to help you with these projects: *A Guide for Recording Oral History* and *A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History*. Email WHRC@GFWC.org or call 202-347-3168 for a free copy of these publications.
- The WHRC can help you develop programs using GFWC history to promote interest and membership. (Refer to "Suggested GFWC History Projects" provided herein.)
- The WHRC helps manage the preservation of GFWC's National Landmark Headquarters building. We can offer guidance and resources in preserving your historic clubhouse.
- The WHRC can act as a professional liaison for clubs that want to work with a state or local historical agency to preserve their historical records and/or buildings.
- The WHRC can help you navigate catalog and online exhibits and provide advice to clubs and State Federations on how to make their own collections accessible online. The WHRC uses the latest technology to make collections available to GFWC members throughout the world. Visit www.GFWC.org/WHRC.
- GFWC publishes the *WHRC Newsletter*, a publication available for complimentary subscription, and other publications to assist and promote clubs doing projects related to GFWC history or historic preservation.
- Workshops and tutorials on GFWC history are presented at GFWC's Annual Convention.
- GFWC offers complimentary tours highlighting exhibits at GFWC Headquarters for groups and individuals.
- The WHRC provides research opportunities for members and the public.

HOW CAN MY CLUB SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER?

- Join Friends of the WHRC. (Form provided herein.)
- Become an onsite volunteer. The WHRC needs help to make the thousands of club histories and hundreds of oral history transcripts accessible online. Onsite volunteers may work as GFWC Headquarters tour guides or under the guidance of WHRC staff. Members can also volunteer through participating in the newsletter.
- Help make the WHRC an internationally recognizable resource on the historical role of women volunteers by promoting WHRC collections, services, and student field study opportunities to local colleges, universities, and historical institutions.
- Contact the WHRC to help you locate a local repository for your historical club or state records.
- Focus on other national/international groups with diverse memberships in the Washington, DC area and/or other locations to share and promote the historical role of GFWC as volunteers.
- Promote and participate in events that feature WHRC services and benefits, such as tutorials and workshops, as well as the Women's History Month event held each year in March at GFWC Headquarters.
- Encourage the appointment of a WHRC Chairman in State Federations and clubs.
- Keep the WHRC updated on the location of club and State Federation archives.
- Report your WHRC program activities to GFWC. We want to share your success stories to inspire others.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE WHRC

Donate to the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center in support of its mission and become a Friend of the WHRC. By joining the Friends of the WHRC, you will help:

- Preserve and maintain GFWC collections
- Increase research library acquisitions
- Provide student field study opportunities

Presidential **\$1,000**

Benefactor **\$250**

Patron **\$100**

Friend **\$50**

Visit www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do/WHRC for benefits.

Name _____

Club _____

Address _____

Email _____

For club memberships, please provide contact information for the club president.

Club president _____

Address _____

Email edition of *WHRC News*: Yes No

Check donation status: Individual Club

Checks, with "WHRC" in the memo line, should be made payable and sent to:

GFWC

1734 N Street NW

Washington, DC 20036-29990

FRIEND LEVELS**PRESIDENTIAL—\$1,000**

- Name engraved on Presidential Donor Plaque in front of WHRC Library
- A behind-the-scenes GFWC Headquarters tour, including areas not seen by the public
- Identification as WHRC Presidential Donor with Convention name badge ribbon
- WHRC Featured Personal Profile write up on www.GFWC.org

BENEFACTOR—\$250

- A behind-the-scenes GFWC Headquarters tour, including areas not seen by the public
- Identification as WHRC Benefactor with Convention name badge ribbon
- WHRC Featured Personal Profile write up on www.GFWC.org

PATRON—\$100

- Identification as WHRC Patron with Convention name badge ribbon
- WHRC Featured Personal Profile write up on www.GFWC.org

FRIEND—\$50

- Identification as WHRC Friend with convention name badge ribbon

PLEASE COPY THIS FORM

PROJECT IDEAS

Develop and incorporate club and community projects aimed at preserving women's history. Educate club and community members on the current relevance of GFWC and club histories. Develop diverse and creative projects to encourage active member participation.

- Invite members to take turns each month giving a report on a well-known woman in history or one currently making history.
- Write your club history. "*WHRC Guidelines for Writing Club Histories*" is available from the GFWC Marketplace.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation video of past and present members, major service projects, and historical artifacts to be used at membership events, fundraisers, and community events.
- Hold a club scavenger hunt to help members learn about the history of your club or GFWC. Divide members into groups of three and give them a list of 40 things to find. Some items can be found in club yearbooks or scrapbooks, while others may require a "seasoned" member for an answer. After 20 minutes, provide the answers to the group using pictures and information in the scrapbooks to recount the founding of the club and past projects. Long-time members can add interesting facts.

- Choose a member each month who will be celebrating her birthday. Interview her and prepare a presentation for your meeting. Also highlight a member from the past or an event from the past.
- Educate the public about your history by inviting history teachers and students to visit your club. Share scrapbooks from early days and club histories.
- Observe Women's History Month in March by presenting a "Woman of Distinction" award to a club member or community member who exhibits outstanding service to their community and exemplifies all the qualities set forth in Mary Stewart's *Collect for Clubwomen*.

SUGGESTED GFWC HISTORY PROJECTS

- Contact the WHRC for tips for using WHRC publications and electronic resources for club program ideas. Use the booklet *Rising by Light to Higher Things: Highlights of GFWC's Collections* to create programs on GFWC's support of American Art; the GFWC Timeline to relate GFWC national service programs to local ones; or GFWC photographs of events, people, or unique publications and memorabilia to illustrate a PowerPoint presentation.
- Contact the WHRC to receive a scripted PowerPoint presentation that provides an historical and interior tour of 1734 N Street.
- Highlight your club's history to demonstrate the importance of your club to your community. For more information on membership recruitment activities, review the *GFWC Membership Advancement Guide* in the *GFWC Club Manual*.
- Gain inspiration for fundraising and community outreach by reviewing past GFWC Community Improvement Program Award winners in the WHRC online catalog. GFWC history is relevant to ALL program areas.
- Develop a proactive public awareness program by offering GFWC history stories to your local news media for Women's History Month (March), Federation Day (April 24), and Archives Month (October).
- Partner with local historical institutions to promote the role of your club in local history.
- Work with your local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history; offer to serve as judges for local History Day competitions.



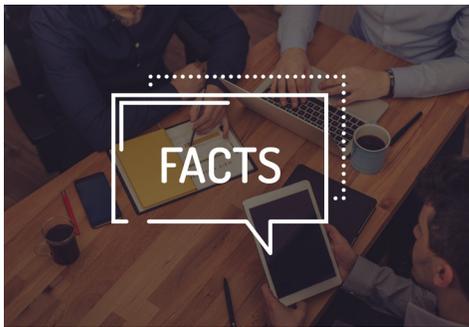
A STROLL THROUGH CLUB HISTORY

The GFWC Lexington Woman's Club (VA) held a kick-off luncheon in August that featured a "Stroll through the Lexington Woman's Club History," a scripted style-show depicting the dress and accomplishments of the club since its founding in 1911. Seven members participated as models using costumes from various decades and historical props. It was hoped the event would familiarize members, both current and new, with the history and traditions of the club.



NOTABLE WOMEN IN SOCIETY AND THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

GFWC Franklin Woman's Club (NJ) presented a panoramic display at the library that was viewed by 22,000 visitors. Educational posters highlighted women who made notable contributions in various walks of life. Supplemented by photographs and information from *Time Magazine*, the display included four women "firsts" in their field: Madeline Albright, the first woman Secretary of State; Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a Space Shuttle; Kathryn Smith, the first full-time NFL coach; and Ann Dunwoody, the first woman to rise to the rank of four-star General in the U.S. Army.



A MEETING OF THE GFWC RHINELANDER WOMAN'S CLUB 1900

GFWC Rhinelander Club (WI) shared interesting club facts to add to the positive attitude they create in the community. They prepared a rehearsed a skit, "A Meeting of the GFWC Rhinelander Woman's Club 1900," which aired on the local radio station in February. Live presentations, complete with costumes and props, were performed at their club meeting and a GFWC WI workshop. The club also shared the script with another Wisconsin club that will perform the skit during their upcoming anniversary celebration.



QUARTERS FOR GFWC MISSISSIPPI HEADQUARTERS

The GFWC Mississippi WHRC Assistant Chairman made a presentation at Summer Board to promote a fundraiser "Quarters for Headquarters," with clubs collecting quarters to go toward the upkeep of the MFWC Headquarters in Jackson. The project will conclude at the state convention in April. The history of the Headquarters was featured in the Dixie Dining III Cookbook with tidbits throughout the book outlining historical accomplishments of both GFWC and MFWC.

HOW CAN I OR MY CLUB ARRANGE A TOUR OR SCHEDULE A RESEARCH VISIT?

A National Historic Landmark, 1734 N Street, NW, is a Washington must-see for GFWC clubwomen and their guests. The WHRC manages access to GFWC's historic archives and collections, including tours of GFWC Headquarters. Group tours and research appointments must be scheduled in advance by emailing WHRC@GFWC.org or calling 202-347-3168. Tour and research hours are between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. GFWC is closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, the Wednesday-Friday of Thanksgiving week, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Tour admission is free for GFWC members and by suggested contribution for non-members.

GUIDE TO USING THE WHRC ONLINE CATALOG

A primary goal of the WHRC is to make GFWC's valuable historical records more accessible to our members, the scholarly research community, and the public. Improved access will promote greater recognition for the contributions of GFWC clubwomen and inspire members to use the lessons of past successes to build solid membership, strong leadership, and meaningful community service projects.

The WHRC online catalog allows GFWC members and website visitors, including those who come to the catalog via a general web search engine such as Google, to explore a wide range of GFWC collections. The tips in this Guide are meant to be a quick outline to navigating the WHRC online catalog. For additional guidance, please do not hesitate to email WHRC@GFWC.org or call 202-347-3168. To access the catalog through the GFWC website:

1. Go to www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do/WHRC
2. Click on the "Search the Collections" button to bring you to the WHRC home page.

NAVIGATING THE ONLINE CATALOG FROM THE MAIN CATALOG PAGE

KEYWORD SEARCH - This search field casts the widest net for information, like the simple keyword search feature of Google. The search covers all fields included in the catalog records, including donors, who may be individuals, clubs, or State Federations. As with Google, enclosing a multi-word search term in quotation marks will limit results to that phrase; for example, "South Dakota."

Interactive features in each record:

- Email Page (top, right)—send this image to a friend.
- Send Feedback (top, far right)—contact the WHRC with comments or questions.
- Order Image (below image)—request a copy for a club presentation or publication.
- Search Term (in record)—may provide additional information on that topic. For example, click on "GFWC Headquarters" to read details on the history of GFWC Headquarters.
- Person (not shown)—Click on the name of any GFWC International Past President to see her biography.
- Related Hyperlinks (not shown)—If digital content is available, a link will be provided to read a book, club or state history, or oral history online.

AWARDS

2020-2021 Special Award: In recognition of the Women's Suffrage Centennial, GFWC will offer a cash award of \$100 to the GFWC club that best promotes the celebration in its community.

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Women's History and Resource Center projects as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Award Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Entry and one Club Creativity Award Entry for Women's History and Resource Center projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.



Refer to the Awards section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.