

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

September 2024 | Volume 82 | Issue 3

Tonja Ivey Editor & Publisher Computer Design Consulting Service 115 Library Hill Lane, Suite C Lexington, SC 29072 tivey@cdcsllc.com 803.312.2369 Cell 803.785.4242 Work

2

Kathie Walker Database Coordinator 1485 Greenmoor Road Rock Hill, SC 29732 wfwkew@comporium.net 803.366.5035

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents 2024 GFWC National Day of Service

3-13

Messages From GFWC-SC Executive Committee Program Council Minutes Board of Directors President's Special Project - Preserve Our Birds Your State, Your Partner GFWC-SC Poet Laureate GFWC Special Project: Advocates for Children

14-20

Community Service Programs GFWC National Day of Service Advancement Plans & Special Projects GFWC SC LEADS

21-27

Highlights from GFWC Convention Club News GFWC Southern Region Conference GFWC SC Christmas Stocking Extravaganza Dates To Remember





SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

TIME TO REGISTER!

REGISTER ON THE NEW GFWC MEMBER PORTAL MEMBERPORTAL.GFWC.ORG

USE THE EVENTS PAGE

2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents

President: Suzanne Carswell 107 Lake Summit Drive, Chapin, SC 29036 suzanne.gfwcsc@gmail.com 803 397-9767

1st Vice President: Kaye Jones 205 Westbury Lane, Columbia, SC 29212 clemsongirlkaye@aol.com 803 360-8906

2nd Vice President: Carrie Zimmerman 605 White Oak Farms Rd.,Tamassee, SC 29686 czim22@gmail.com 864-710-5851

Secretary: Kaye Hunke 121 Willow Fork Way, Irmo, SC 29036 khunke@aol.com 803-413-2750

Treasurer: Mendy Haver 334 Neely Crossing Lane, Simpsonville, SC 29680 mhaver3000@yahoo.com 864-230-3464

Director of Junior Clubs: Michelle Blackmon 178 Foxworth Dr., Lexington, SC 29702 mgallow@g.clemson.edu 803 730-7732

Director-elect of Junior Clubs: Courtney Evans 107 Sweet Grass Lane, Columbia, SC 29203 cepevans@hotmail.com 803-556-7042

Advisor: Norma England 1979 High Pines Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732 englandn72@comporium.net 803 323-9049

Special Assistant to the President: Janet Prince 1550 McSwain Dr., West Columbia, SC 29169 janetprince03@gmail.com 803-665-9667

Parliamentary Advisor: Marian St. Clair 357 Riverside Drive, Greenville, SC 29605 marian.stclair@gmail.com 864-414-5697

Coastal District President: Jerri McCumbee 4801 Harbour Pointe Dr., N. Myrtle Beach 29582 jeri.nmbwc@gmail.com 803-450-4001

Midlands District President: Shelli Pue 107 Sweet Grass Lane, Columbia, SC 29203 shellipue1@gmail.com 803 665-4200

Upstate District President: Donna Anderson 1 Wandflower Court, Simpsonville, SC 29680 donnapanderson@charter.net 864-915-6523





2024-2026

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Summer Session Garden Party on August 10 and fun to see many of you in your sundresses and hats embracing the theme. Thank you for showing up to Educate, Engage and Empower yourselves to kick off the new club year.

2nd Vice President Carrie Zimmerman worked with Chairmen to put together a slide presentation highlighting our Community Service Project (CSP), Advancement Plan, President's Special Project, Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, Your State Your Partner and Your State Your Project and Contest Areas. It was a LOT of information and the Chairmen did a wonderful job presenting it to the 96 clubwomen in attendance. Soon, you will be able to download the presentations directly from our GFWC-SC.org website.



Our speaker, Jay Keck of South Carolina Wildlife Federation, passionately inspired us to support my President's Special Project and Preserve Our Birds. Tammy Garland

encouraged us to support our upcoming Southern Region Conference in Greenville by attending, purchasing sponsorships and scarves (she sold out of her initial order of 50 – thank you so much!).

Program Council approvals for new awards and initiatives were announced and Arts & Culture Chairman Elizabeth Renneker and clubwomen from GFWC Women of the 'Burg helped to facilitate a paper sunflower art project. In spite of apparently not being as adept as kindergartners in creating them, the sunflower project was lots of fun. They are being delivered to hospice facilities across the state to bring a bit of_ sunshine to the staff and residents.

I have just returned from the GFWC Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC. What a memorable time the South Carolina federation had with our federated sisters from across the region and the country. Being surrounded by the rich history of our country was especially inspiring.

Also exceptionally inspiring were the words of our keynote speakers: Shawndell Dawson, Director of the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and Anna Laymon, Executive Director of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation. A highlight was being in attendance when Suellen Brazil, our GFWC International President, announced GFWC's partnership with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation. Knowing GFWC and each of us, through our clubs, will have an opportunity to play a part in that new national monument on the Washington Mall which will 'commemorate women's fight for the vote and honor the early pioneers of the early American movement for women's equality' is both exciting and humbling.

I think I can speak for all of our GFWC-SC federation in attendance when I say it lived up to President Brazil's theme of Educate, Engage, Empower. We learned a lot, became more involved and certainly came away with the tools and knowledge to help each of us and our clubs achieve and succeed.

Don't forget GFWC's National Day of Service is September 28. If your club hasn't, please sign up by emailing <u>GFWCNDS@gfwc.org</u>.

The Southern Region Conference that GFWC South Carolina is hosting is October 3-6. Though the date to register without penalty is past, you may still register or send a sponsorship. Conference Chairman Marian St.Clair, co-chair Tammy Garland, committee members Jackie Boland and Janet Prince along with Region President Laurie O'Kelly are working hard to present a fabulous conference.

If you'll take the time to read on, there's much more to see and learn.

I hope to see many of you in Greenville in October!

In Federation Friendship & Love,

uzanne

Suzanne Carswell GFWC-SC President



3

Hello to my sweet GFWC-SC sisters,

I hope this summer has brought you both rejuvenation and inspiration. For me, this season has been quite memorable. I had the honor of attending the GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, alongside five remarkable GFWC-SC Juniors, including our very own Katie Moydell, the GFWC 2022-2024 International Director of Junior Clubs. Katie's brilliant sparkle illuminated the convention, and her leadership was a continuous source of inspiration. Allison McGee from JWC of Columbia graduated from the LEADS program and Shelli Pue received the prestigious Gold Millie Crom Award for her exceptional contributions as our 2022-2024 GFWC-SC Junior Director. Additionally, congratulations to the JWC of Columbia, JWC of Lake Murray, and JWC Charleston for completing the Leadership certification training. I hope all junior clubs will consider completing this during the coming club year.

At summer board, I shared that one goal for this administration is to reestablish a Junior Board. If you are a junior club member and would like more information please email me at mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com My goal is to plan a social for SC Juniors and a collaborative service project during my administration. I am open to ideas for this as well.

As the summer winds down and the weather begins to cool, I invite you to gather around the metaphorical fire and ignite a passion for change. My administration's focus, Be the Spark, aligns with GFWC's overarching goal of advocating for children. We must prioritize getting our kids outdoors and away from the pervasive glow of screens. I have identified potential initiatives in each district to inspire your clubs: Upstate District: Camp Greenville, Millvillage Farms, Hope Remains Ranch. In the Midlands District: Canoeing for Kids, Kids in Parks, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands. In the Coastal District: The Outside Foundation, Kids in Kayaks, Kids on Point. Furthermore, I encourage you to explore partnerships with local schools, recreation departments, and parks to create or maintain vibrant outdoor spaces for children and teens.

To recognize and celebrate your club's achievements, we will present three awards in April:

- 1. The Blue Flame Award: for the most outstanding work in getting children outdoors and off screens
- 2. The Ember Award: for the highest number of volunteer hours dedicated to getting kids outside and off screens
- 3. The Torch Award: for exceptional collaboration and/or partnership.

I am eager to support your club's endeavors. Let's work together to ignite a flame of change that will benefit generations to come.

In closing, I would like to I encourage all GFWC-SC Club women and junior members to attend Southern Region in Greenville, SC. Alongside the Junior Directors from Georgia and Florida, we have planned a Junior Fun Night you won't want to miss. We will donate the proceeds to Camp Greenville's scholarship fund. For 106 years, Camp Greenville has been a YMCA-operated camp focusing on a screen-free, back-to-basics experience, helping campers connect with nature and themselves. Wear your pajamas and plan to have fun Friday October 4th after dinner.

In Junior Love,

Michelle

Michelle Blackmon GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs









2024-2026

Can you believe summer is almost over? Well, the heat is not gone because we are in SC but the calendar says it's fall. That means college football, cooling weather (eventually), and Thanksgiving will be here soon.

Most of the clubs in our state have now kicked off a new club year and are working on fundraisers and projects. New members are coming on board so make sure your more seasoned members still feel valued. Every club member matters, and they should be treated as such...if they aren't, they will either leave or spread negativity within the club.

My focus this administration is to **Gain & Retain** our membership. We HAVE to continue to bring in new members! They keep the club moving forward and bring in new ideas. We also HAVE to keep the members we have! They are the life blood of each organization and hold the history of the past. Here are some things I heard at convention during the Membership Workshop.

- Engage your members
 - For existing and new members
 - Educate them on your club, your state federation, and GFWC International. Help them understand how they all fit
 - Create one on one connections within your club projects and meetings
 - Invite state and district officers to attend your meeting and functions
- Empower your members
 - Respect their time
 - Email all reports prior to meetings
 - Conduct project and committee planning during separate meetings and not during a general meeting
- Recruitment for members
 - Be INTENTIONAL in all communications
 - Clearly state who to contact to join your club in every post, newspaper article, etc.
 - Utilize social media to promote & publicize
 - Be visible in your communities
 - Reward members for bringing in new members
- Track & Report
 - Review the Membership information in the Club Manual on the GFWC website (pages 173-197) for ideas on getting and keeping members and tracking this information. Make sure you send in the Recruitment Report by the deadlines listed in the club Manual

Please let me know if you have any questions, ideas for new General, Junior & Juniorette clubs, new member recruitment, membership retention, etc. I am here for you and it will take all of us to **Gain & Retain** in 2024-2026!

In Federation Friendship & Love,

Kaye

Kaye Jones GFWC-SC First Vice President





BREAKING NEWS







Message FRM GFWC-SC Second Vice President



Hello to all! It was fantastic to see such a great turnout at the 2024 Summer Board meeting! Your administration has been working hard all summer and looking forward to our clubs getting their new club year started! Program Council met Friday, August 9 and approved new awards, streamlined forms, approved fundraising options, and increased some points on the rating sheets! All forms will be located on the website and updated in September.

With the help of our awesome Program Chairman, we developed and shared the Program Fair at Summer Board. The PowerPoints will be placed on the website for you to use and share at your club meetings! Please reach out to these chairs or myself if you have any questions!

The following new awards are below:

President's Special Program Awards:

CAROLINA WREN AWARD: To the club with the best overall project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds. **BIRDS OF A FEATHER:** To the club with the best collaborative project, two clubs working together or a club working with a local park, state park, recreation commission or local government. Promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

SPARROW AWARDS: To the club with the most creative project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

Junior Director Special Program Awards:

THE BLUE FLAME AWARD: awarded to the club completing the most outstanding work in getting children outdoors and off screens.

THE EMBER AWARD: awarded to the club completing the most outstanding work in getting children outdoors and off screens.

THE TORCH AWARD: awarded to the clubs that use collaborative efforts in their participation of the Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, Be the Spark.

All forms will be on the GFWC-SC website! All 2024 updated forms/ information will be available there as of September 30, 2024. We will have a Reporting Workshop via Zoom in November 2024 and another at Winter Board closer to Report writing time. Don't forget to check out the GFWC-SC and GFWC websites – there is lots of information there.

We are also re-implementing the Scrapbook Award Contest as a digital publication. Clubs can complete this by using programs such as, SnapFish, Canva, Shutterfly, to name a few. We encourage all of our clubs to keep a digital record of their hard work they do each year! We look forward to reading them!

I look forward to working with each of you!

In Federation Friendship & Love,



Carrie Zimmerman GFWC-SC Second Vice President Happy Fall! I hope everyone survived the hurricanes and rain in August and are enjoying some cooler weather.

It was so good to see so many familiar faces at our Summer Session. It is always great to catch up with our club sisters. If you missed it, make plans for Winter Session in January. It's always a good time.

As a reminder, if you stood up to give a report at Summer Session, please give me a copy of your report. My email address is <u>khunke@aol.</u> <u>com</u>.

I hope to see many of you at the District meetings.

In Federation Friendship & Love,

Raye

Kaye Hunke GFWC-SC Secretary

Leasons

Some Times call for Some Things. We face backward, looking for -What we celebrated. What we neglected. What we hoped. We face forward, looking for -What we need. What we need. What we build. What we hope, still. Choose. Some Times call for Some Things

Janet Smalley, GFWC-SC Poet Laureate

Messace From

GFWC-SC Secretary Hello fellow GFWC-SC sisters! I am so excited to be serving as GFWC-SC Treasurer this administration. Below are some important dates to remember and guidelines to follow for TAX purposes, applying for fundraising and the Progress Foundation.

GFWC-SC ANNUAL DUES: Annual dues shall be paid to GFWC-SC Treasurer on or before the first day of November. Clubs must pay their dues by Nov 1st in order to earn points on the rating sheet and to be eligible to apply for a grant from GFWC-SC Progress Foundation.

Per Member

\$ 27 \$ 31 \$ 27 \$ 16 \$ 11

<u>Category</u>	
General Clubs	
Junior Clubs	
Members at Large	
Heritage Clubs	
Juniorette Clubs	

IRS TAX OR INFORMATIONAL RETURN FILING. You are required to file an annual return of your income and expenses with the IRS. Small tax-exempt organizations with gross receipts \leq \$50,000 can file an electronic notice. The 990-N or E-Postcard filing is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after close of your tax year.

Ending date of Tax Year	Return Due Date
Dec 31	May 15
Nov 30	April 15
Oct 31	Mar 15
Sept 30	Feb 15
Aug 31	Jan 15
July 31	Dec 15
June 30	Nov 15
May 31	Oct 15
April 30	Sept 15
Mar 31	Aug 15
Feb 28/29	July 15
Jan 31	June 15

SECRETARY OF STATE REGISTRATION OR EXEMPTION: The Registration Statement for a Charitable Organization or The Application For Registration Exemption, and the Annual Financial Report for a Charitable Organization are all due on an annual basis 4 1/2 months after the close your club's fiscal year. Please see <u>http://www.sos.sc.gov/</u> Public Charities/PublicCharitiesInfo.

Secretary of State Financial Report: Unless you have registered with the Secretary of State's Office for an Ex- emption – your club may either submit the Secretary of State's Annual Financial Report Form or the IRS Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-PF. Please see <u>http://www.sos.sc.gov/Public_Charities_Info.</u>

*Please feel free to reach out to me for any questions you might have. If I do not have an answer, I will do my best to find out for you! I can be reached by email at mhaver3000@yahoo.com, snail mail at 334 Neely Crossing Lane, Simpsonville, SC 29680, or phone or text at (864) 230-3464.

In Federation Friendship & Love,

Nendy

Mendy Haver GFWC-SC Treasurer







Treasurer

General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina Board of Directors August 10, 2024

The GFWC Board of Directors approved the following recommendations from Program Council on Saturday, August 10, 2024:

- 1. REMOVING CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE FROM THE RATING SHEET UNDER STATE LEADERSHIP.
- 2. REMOVING MRS. JOHN A WOLF(SAVE-A-LIFE) FROM THE RATING SHEET.
- 3. CHANGING THE POINTS ON THE RATING SHEET UNDER STATE MEMBERSHIP: CLUB PRESIDENT'S DIRECTORY FORM TO DATABASE COORDINATOR & DISTRICT PRESIDENT BY APRIL 15 FROM 5 POINTS EACH TO 25 POINTS FOR THE REPORTING YEAR.
- 4. ADDING THE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS, CAROLINA WREN, BIRDS OF A FEATHER AND SPARROW AWARDS
- 5. ADDING THE FOLLOWING JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS, THE BLUE FLAME, THE EMBER AND THE TORCH AWARD.
- 6. COMBINING THE SCHOLARSHIP LETTER AND SCHOLARSHIP FORM INTO ONE DOCUMENT/FORM.
- 7. ADDING EMAIL ADDRESSES TO THE SCHOLARHSIP DOCUMENT/FORM.
- 8. ADDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIGITAL SUBMISSION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DOCUMENT.
- 9. APPROVED SUZANNE'S REQUEST TO SELL, RAFFLE OR AUCTION SUNFLOWER PINS/PENDANTS, NOTECARDS, NOTEPADS AND OTHER ITEMS TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT.
- 10. APPROVED MICHELLE'S REQUEST TO SELL, RAFFLE OR AUCTION T-SHIRTS, NOTECARDS, NOTEPADS, JEWLERY AND OTHER ITEMS TO SUPPORT THE JUNIOR SPECIAL PROJECT.
- 11. APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION OF RE-IMPLEMENTING THE SCRAPBOOK AWARD CONTEST TO A DIGITAL PUBLICATION WITH PRESENTED GUIDELINES, NO LARGER THAN 12X12 OR MORE THAN100 PAGES.
- 12. REVAMPING THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS DIRECTORY TO THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS GFWC-SC SPONSORS AND INCREASING REGISTRATION FROM \$5 TO \$500 PER ADMINISTRATION.
- 13. APPROVED THAT THE SOUTHERN REGION CAN SELL NEW SOUTHERN REGION PINS TO HELP FUNDRAISE FOR SOUTHERN REGION TO SUPPORT GFWC-SC CONFERENCE COST.
- 14. APPROVED THAT ALL CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE AND PUBLICATIONS WILL GO ONLINE.
- 15. APPROVED INCREASING REGISTRATION FEES BY \$5.00 AND LATE REGISTRATION FEES TO \$15.00.
- 16. APPROVED TO DISCONTINUE ALL COASTAL DISTRICT AWARDS.
- 17. APPROVED TO MAKE CHANGES TO ADD 20 POINTS TO EACH CATEGORY FOR THE RATING SHEET ON RESOLUTIONS THAT WERE PROPOSED AND A SILVER CERTIFICATE AND \$100 IF THE RESOLUTION IS PASSED BY GFWC.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT – PRESERVE OUR BIRDS

As a lifelong birder, I am thrilled to chair the GFWC-SC President's Special Project, Preserve our Birds! Preserve our Birds is an uplifting and fun project to highlight the danger to the entire North American bird population, due mainly to loss of habitat. Currently one third of the North American bird population is at risk. That is something that GFWC-SC can change!

The following awards will be presented for Preserve our Birds:

CAROLINA WREN AWARD: To the club with the best overall project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER AWARD: To the club with best collaborative project, two clubs working together OR a club working with a local park, state park, recreation

commission or local government. Promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

SPARROW AWARD: To the club with the most creative project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

Jay Keck, South Carolina Wildlife Federation, was the guest speaker at our Summer Session. Jay shared a wealth of information about bird habitat and preservation. SCWF offers a variety of online learning experiences. To participate in a webinar, visit <u>https://www.scwf.org/online-nature-learning</u>.

Other resources for learning more about birds are:

https://www.audubon.org/

https://abcbirds.org/

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/

During our Program Fair at Summer Session I shared a few ways to Preserve Our Birds.

- Create a Backyard Bird Habitat. Information can be found at <u>https://www.scwf.org/habitats</u>
- Lights Out for Birds-Many birds, particularly songbirds, migrate at night, navigating by the moon and stars. They often become disoriented by brightly lit windows in tall buildings. The result is horrific: more than 100 million bird deaths in North America annually. Visit https://www.audubon.org/news/ lights-out-turn-birds to learn more.
- If you are a cat owner, please keep your cats inside. Domestic cats are responsible for the death of 1.3-4 billion birds annually!



The full presentation from Program Fair can be viewed at www.GFWC-SC.org

I look forward to working with you all this year. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way.



Kaye Gerrald Chairman

YOUR STATE, YOUR PARTNER – ST. JUDE

GFWC began our partnership with St. Jude back in 2015, recognizing the importance of the life saving work they are doing.

- St. Jude has pioneered treatments that have increased the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20% to more than 80%.
- They **freely** share their incredible breakthroughs making them a global resource in the fight against childhood cancer.
- Perhaps the most incredible thing to know about St. Jude is that the families of patients at St. Jude never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food, which allows them to focus on the most important thing, their child's health.

As we ALL know, healthcare is incredibly expensive and to give these families this blessing and continue this great work, it requires the support of individuals and organizations like us.

Annually, clubs across the country participate in the St. Jude Walk/Run to help raise awareness and donations to keep funding the fight to save our children.

While the official event takes place on September 28th, which happens to coincide with the National Day of Service, we are encouraging clubwomen to walk whenever and wherever you can during the month of September.

Call to Action:

- 1. Register to join the GFWC-SC team using the QR Code shown. (Juliet Casper is the captain, if you are doing a manual search on Stjude.org for the team.)
- 2. Donate and/or solicit donations from family and friends. We have a GFWC-SC team goal of \$1,500. It would only take 75 members donating \$20 to reach this goal and we have a membership of more than 1,000 members. Let's do this!
- 3. Spread awareness about St. Jude by sharing statistics, links, walk photos, etc. on your social media accounts. Be sure to include #StJudeWalkRun and #StJude

To our Midlands area friends, my home club, The Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray, will be meeting at Virginia Hylton Park in Lexington on September 15th at 3pm to walk together. We'd love to have you join us! Kids and families are welcome to join and enjoy the incredible newly renovated park!

To our sisters in other regions, we encourage you to coordinate among your clubs and make plans to check out some of your own local parks or walking trails! I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together.

CHALLENGE: I'D LOVE TO SEE EVERY CLUB HAVE 5 MEMBERS REGISTERED AND/OR \$100 RAISED!



Megan Yongue

Chairman



11



YOUR STATE, YOUR PROJECT - WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

As citizens of this country, it is our duty to Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve, and **Teach** the next generation the value of freedom. One way we invite you to do that is to get involved with Wreaths Across America.

If you are unfamiliar, this movement began in 1992 when Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Maine, through a random act of kindness, donated surplus wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. That small gesture has now grown into a national movement, with millions of wreaths placed each year.

Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. This year's Wreaths Across America Day will take place on December 14, 2024. On that day, more than 2 million Veterans' Wreaths will be placed across Local, National and Military Cemeteries as well as Veterans' Memorials and historic sites.

The organization relies heavily on volunteers to coordinate local ceremonies, fund, and place wreaths on veterans' graves.

How Can You Help?

1. Sponsor a wreath:

Clubs can sponsor wreaths at price points starting at just \$17 for one wreath

- 1 Wreath Individual Sponsorship (\$17)
- 2 Wreaths (\$34.00)
- 5 Wreaths (\$85.00)

MERICA

10 Wreaths (\$170.00)

2. Volunteer to participate in a wreath laying ceremony near you:

Families and volunteers of all ages are invited to come and share in this patriotic experience! There is arguably no better way to educate our younger generations about the value of freedom and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed for it.

Visit wreathsacrossAmerica.org for additional information on sponsoring wreaths and/or to get connected with a cemetery near you! There are hundreds of options across South Carolina.

> This is an initiative that we will continue to focus on in subsequent years of this administration, so if you are unable to participate in the way that you wish this year, go ahead and bookmark it to begin planning for next year!





Megan Yongue

Chairman



12

GFWC SPECIAL PROJECT: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level.

The Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children encourages advocacy and projects that will assist and protect children in crisis, including those experiencing:

child abuse, cyberbullying, depression and suicide, foster or residential care, homelessness, human trafficking, life-threatening illness, limits on screen time, cyber predators, poverty, texting while driving.



Courtney Evans GFWC-SC Director-elect of Junior Clubs

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 to SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2024

The community connection initiative for this administration is "Be a Champion in the Lives of Children". During Advocates for Children Week clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement or child protective service agencies to identify their needs for children or families. In addition to responding to their determined needs, clubs can create "busy bags" that may be filled with items such as books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, stuffed animals, and so much more. These bags will be immensely helpful in occupying children's minds during challenging experiences.

Check the Legislative Action Center. There are current bills that affect children. Work with your city, county, or state to have the fourth week in October recognized as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. Send a copy of the proclamation to Juniors' Special Program Chairman Suzanne Hooser, suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com .

Please visit the GFWC Club Manual for additional project ideas, resources, and GFWC Affiliate Organizations that fit within the guidelines for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children.

In Junior Love, Courtney Evans, GFWC-SC Director-elect of Junior Clubs cepevans@hotmail.com | 803-556-7042



Community Service Programs

ARTS AND CULTURE

Combined, art and culture are subjects of study primarily concerned with the processes, and products of human creativity and social life, such as languages, literature, imagination, developing the technical ability to create something from nothing, and the capacity to bridge the things that separate us from one another; age, education, location, religion, or economic disparity. Arts and Culture create common ground on which to build a mutual understanding and respect of one for the other.



Maya Angelou stated it best, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." I'm happy to report, in 2023, GFWC recorded 390,281 Volunteer Hours and 9,255 Projects Completed within the Arts and Culture.

Project ideas can include:

- · Hold a recycled art contest
- · Provide a meal for a local School of Dance or Little Theater before a performance
- · Create art care packages for senior or shut-ins
- · Set up a booth at a community day providing an art project
- · Sponsor an activity in March for Youth Art Month
- · Sponsor ads in local theatre or school theatre playbills
- · Host a craft time at a local library
- Host a cultural dinner
- · Create art/craft bags for patients in a Children's Hospital

I challenge each of to think outside of the box, be creative and be a "BIRD".

B- Be YourselfI-Illustrate ArtR- Reflect in ArtD- Diverse in all Cultures

I look forward to working with each of you during the next 2 years. Please reach out if there is anything I can do to help!

Your Friend in Federation, Elizabeth Renneker 864-316-5310 elizabeth_kendall25@yahoo.com

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Read Across America Reading Baskets

Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program "are designed to foster schools and other educational institutions and opportunities, and promote libraries, literacy, and reading good books. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world."



Statewide, an average of only 53% of South Carolina students meet expectations in reading. The SC Education Department's goal is for 75% of students to meet reading expectations.

For the 2024-2026 administration, we've established a statewide challenge to support our educational institutions in their efforts to teach young children to read. The challenge is to provide Reading Baskets to schools during the annual Read Across America event, which is held on March 2nd each year or the closest school day to March 2nd.

To meet this challenge, clubs will create reading baskets for one or more local elementary schools. If possible, clubs will create one basket each for kindergarten, first, second and third grades (4 baskets per school). If allowed by the partner school(s), club members will also read the books to classes.

Process:

1) Well before March 2nd, contact your school(s) to describe the basket project and inquire to see if they will allow club members to also read some of the selected books as part of the school's reading celebration. Inquire as to the number of classes taught for each grade K-3 and the number of students.

2) Create the reading baskets for one or more local elementary schools. If possible, create one basket each for kindergarten, first, second and third grades (4 baskets per school).

3) The basket should contain some healthy snacks for the kids and teachers as well as some of the club members' favorite new K-3 books. It is recommended that your basket for each grade contain enough snacks for every student to receive a snack and at least 4 books.

4) Ensure that selected books are age-appropriate and do not include any political or controversial topics.

5) Deliver baskets to the school(s), read to children as permitted and take pictures (without the children's faces) and post the pictures of the baskets and reading to your club's social media accounts.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Huddle (Ph: 803-665-3109 and 1981cutiger@gmail.com).

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental issues are a matter of concern these days in South Carolina as well as all over the planet. People are becoming more aware of the implication of environmental deterioration in our daily lives. It has become important to most of us to check our surroundings for natural resources and pollution, but do so without stopping the process of development, whether that is manufacturing or housing. The following are just a few of the possible solutions we could support regularly for the environmental issues we see on a daily basis:

- Avoid single-use plastic
- Reduce food waste, compost
- Plant more trees and go paperless
- Promote green innovations
- Conserve water and electricity
- Use reusable products instead of disposable ones
- Recycle the waste to conserve the natural resources
- The use of paper should be avoided
- Recycling all items possibly locally to avoid large waste lands
- Plant more trees to replace those lost to new housing
- Use public transportation where possible, carpool

The Environment that we live in each day covers so many areas of our lives. It's everything outdoors and inside our homes; our vehicles that takes us wherever we want to go and the fuel that makes it go, (including planes, trains, ships, etc.), the animals we love and those that can be a menace if we get in their way. It's the air we breathe, the storms, birds, plants, food, and the water we drink. It's the trash we create and toss in the trash or see tossed along the side of the road. It's every manufacturing facility that produces a product and emits any kind of gas or steam of some kind meant to "blend" in with the air we breathe on a daily basis. It's ALL of our lakes, ponds, rivers and oceans across the world that are overloaded with illegal trash being dumped from ships, smaller crafts, etc. which in turn kills the fish and other sea creatures that live in those waters.

There is not one place we can go in our daily life that we don't touch something that is part of our environment. It really is our duty to not only start to help take care of it, (if you have not already done so}, but it is also our duty to teach and encourage those around us, (family, friends, and neighbors} to pitch in and do the same. It will take everyone's help to make a difference in what needs to be done to reverse even some of the damage that has taken place over the last 50-75 years of population growth.

Did you know that currently there are 92 million tons of textiles waste discarded every year in the world and that number is expected to soar up to 134 million tons by the year 2030? Most of this is non-biodegradable, ends up in landfills, and the microplastics are then leeched into soil and nearby water sources from the synthetic materials. Hence, we need to donate our clothing to Shelters for the homeless, the Veteran's, the elderly, children, etc.



ENVIRONMENT - Continued

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE CHALLENGE:

The information below is to serve as ideas for your club to find a variety of ways to help improve the environment in your community. You can choose one project and do it continuously or you can choose several projects and utilize club members, neighbors, school children, other organizations, etc. to help organize projects that will create a cleaner, safer, more beautiful area for all to live in. Below are just a few examples. Make it fun and make it doable for all ages and skill sets. I'm sure there is something that everyone will be able to participate in and ultimately feel a sense of pride in the results.

<u>Clean up Trash and Litter....Everywhere</u>; take a plastic bag, gloves, and a picker with you wherever you go; even on a walk around the neighborhood.

<u>Recycle....Learn</u> what items can be recycled in your area and try to dispose of them properly.

Donate or Sell old Clothing....Veteran's in need, Housing Shelters, Churches who help the homeless, Nursing Homes all have needs for specific items.

Plant a Garden at Home, a Clubhouse, or in the Community....

Environment Community Service Program Chair, Connie Holston 1548 Jardine Loop, Little River, SC 29566 <u>cholston123@outlook.com</u> 734-751-3743

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Building connections and activities that will help build a stronger community – locally, regionally, nationally and globally is what the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program is all about!! Our clubs are great at volunteering, and this is the best way to continue to make an impact in our communities. For this CSP, we can also try to help our community leaders through problem solving, education, advocation



and fundraising! The opportunities are endless! Some of the suggestions for getting involved are citizenship, crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness, the needy, hungry and homeless, and military personnel and veterans.

The 2024-2026 community connection program initiative for this CSP is "Preparation Saves Lives". We are encouraged to focus efforts to educate the community members in the life saving skills of CPR and First aid. Every parent, grandparent, childcare worker, babysitter, teacher, church member, bus driver, Uber driver, restaurant worker, person standing in a grocery line needs to know CPR and First Aid. GFWC members can be the life-or-death difference in a medical emergency to save a life. Civic Engagement and Outreach is at work as we help care for our community and work together to make it a safer place!!

Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman: Wendy Bell

261 Lester Frick Road, Chapin, SC 29036 wendy.bell.sc@gmail.com

17

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Committee chairs and club members please download the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Manual. In there are websites and ideas for individual categories for you to use. Here are some of the information I am sharing with you on health and wellness. There are three main areas. Disease prevention and awareness, nutrition, and physical and emotional care.



Disease and Prevention Awareness:

- Promote breast, cervical and osteoporosis screening, promote vaccines.
- Provide care items for cancer patients and donate to treatment centers.
- Share information of safe disposal of medicine and syringes in your area.
- Check with local nursing homes about needs of Alzheimers and Demetia patients.
 Donate feminine hygiene products to middle school and high school nurses and local shelters.
- Hold a menopause party, include educational materials and play trivia games.
 Donate to Operaton Smile,St Jude Childrens Hospital, Support Shot of Life.

Nutrition:

- It is key to our health, Celebration National Nutrition Month in March, utilizing Nutrition, gov.
- Host a wellness fair and handout healthy recipes, bring to local shelters.
- Donate healthy food to local food banks Check with local colleges if they have student food banks.
- Participate in back buddies, donate to heifer International.
- · Educate members in food safety in disaster or emergncy.

Physical and Emotional Care:

- Plan some physical fitness activities during club meetings. Stand, stretch and breathe. Have a yoga instructor demonstrate at club meeting, form a walking group.
- Support Special Olympics, programs for bullying children in school.
- Speakers at club meetings about issues of substance abuse.
- Suicide prevention Mental Health month is the month of May.
- · Projects may include cards and visits to nursing homes

Suzanne asked and I consider it an honor and a pleasure to serve GFWC South Carolina as the Signature Program Chair during her 2024-2026 Administration. There is so much to discuss, learn, and do over the next two years related to the eight areas of focus within the Signature Program.

I look forward to working with GFWC clubs and community partners across South Carolina to determine what we can do to bring about positive changes in awareness and prevention. My area of focus will center on Human Trafficking and the impact it has on our local communities,



Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

our state, our nation, and our world. Specifically, I will be promoting ways to educate young people about the threats and realities of human trafficking in our state. I have served on the Attorney General's Human Trafficking for a number of years and Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina is a main focus area within the State's plan to address the crime. I want clubs to encourage and engage their middle and high schools to implement TrafficProofSC which is the state's prevention program to educate teens about the threats and realities of human trafficking. Prevention is one of the most important tasks we have. TrafficProofSC is an overarching prevention education initiative designed as an age-appropriate tool to educate and empower youth. The more educated our communities, the closer we become in preventing individuals from being victimized. The crime of human trafficking continues to impact young people across our state. We want to give young people the tools needed to reduce their risk of becoming a victim.

<u>TrafficProofSC</u> was a collaborative effort between SC ETV and Public Radio (SCETV), and the Attorney General's State Task Force. Together they developed <u>TraffickProofSC</u>, a series of free, age-appropriate, educational videos and curricula catered to middle and high school students.

The curriculum includes:

- o Human Trafficking Overview: What is Human Trafficking?
- o Staying Safe Online
- o Labor Trafficking
- o Sex Trafficking

This initiative serves as the first statewide human trafficking prevention education curricula highlighting the importance of educating youth and their families on the realities of human trafficking and it has already won a Telly Silver Award. It is a valuable resource to help young people recognize the snares and lures used by traffickers, so the state's young people can be better positioned to avoid becoming victims. Young people are particularly vulnerable to traffickers through Social Media. Traffickers look for vulnerability. They look for something that is missing in the victim's life and fill that void. That's why awareness and prevention is key. Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is one of the first steps in prevention. As such, the TraffickProofSC curriculum teaches students how to identify different types of human trafficking and associated warning signs, methods used by traffickers to exploit victims, and what to do if they think someone is exploited. Educators and students are also provided with tools and resources available to assist those who are or may be vulnerable to being trafficked.

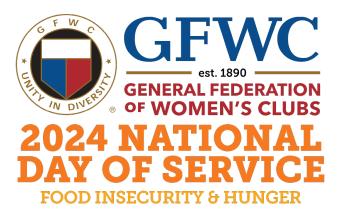
Clubs and volunteers throughout South Carolina can help our middle and high school age children across the state by raising awareness of this resource in their community and by hosting awareness events about Human Trafficking. Please watch the linked video at <u>TrafficProofSC</u> prior to approaching community partners or get a copy of the <u>TrafficProofSC</u> document (filled with ideas and resources) your club can use. I will be happy to send you a copy via email. I would like to challenge each club, to have their Domestic Violence Committee Chair sign up to receive the <u>TraffickProofSC</u> newsletter. This will help them educate club members and their communities to anti human trafficking efforts in South Carolina.

Connie, GFWC-SC, GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention cslawsonusa@aol.com

GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

GFWC National Day of Service is quickly approaching on Saturday, September 28. Please make sure to register your club for this important National day to raise awareness of Food Insecurity and Hunger. Registering is simple, log on to the GFWC.org website and complete a search for "National Day of Service"; registration is at the bottom of the page and requires minimal information. You can also email <u>GFWCNDS@gfwc.org</u> or contact me at <u>susank311@outlook.com</u>. Even if you don't yet know your project, log on and register, let's show out in South Carolina. Please do remember to take pictures and post them on your social media with the hashtag #GFWC24NDS. This also is a great opportunity to raise awareness of GFWC at a national, state and club level; let's end hunger and raise awareness together.

Please send your club project and some pictures to me via email following the event. I will send a reminder September 30 to gather that information from all registered groups.



GFWC SC COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is a pleasure to continue to serve as the Communications and Public Relations Chairman for the 2024-2026 administration. I am excited to continue expanding the social media presence of GFWC-SC during this administration.

To the CSP, Advancement Plan, and Special Project Chairmen: I want to help you spread your initiatives. Please reach out anytime you need something posted on our social media page. Through your work as a chairman, GFWC initiatives are carried out and I want to help support your efforts and share our efforts in our communities and throughout the state.

To our clubwomen, please interact with our social media pages. Like and share our efforts to spread the word of GFWC; this helps with membership enrollment as well!

Do not hesitate to reach out for me to be of assistance to you!

In Federation Spirit,

Tracy Morzuch Communications & Public Relations Chairman communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com

GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We are surrounded by wonderful images everyday!

You don't have to be a professional photographer to take an awesome photo! Our GFWC Photography Competition is open to entries taken on whatever you have with you - phones, professional cameras, or perhaps that old camera you forgot you had!

Share your photographs with us in these four categories:

Living the Volunteer Spirit - its what we do everyday! (GFWC is looking for photos of club members actually engaging in volunteer activities, not posed photos). Natural Wonders - the beautiful world around us! Reflections - have fun and get creative! The World up Close - seek out the details!

When you see that wonderful shot - take it! Then save it for the GFWC competition in April 2025! There will be State and National prizes awarded.

Watch for dates and details!

GFWC SC LEADS 2025 Leadership, Education and Development Seminar Training

GFWC-SC LEADS 2025 is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the Woman's Club of Cayce Clubhouse. Applications will be available on our GFWC-SC.org website starting November 1, 2024, and will be due by January 18, 2025. The cost is only \$35 per person or two for \$60, and we encourage clubs to sponsor attendees from their club. Start making plans to attend now!

If you have any questions, contact Janet Prince at 803-665-9667 or via email at jhprince03@gmail.com.



Highlights From GFWC Convention



leus

INDULGE IN CULINARY DELIGHTS AND MELODIES

TASTY TUNES &

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 STARTS AT 4:00 PM TASTING & LIVE MUSIC EXPERIENCE

\$40 PER PERSON

DUNCAN EVENT CENTER 121 S. Spencer Street DUNCAN, SC 29334

This social event supports Women of the 'Burg Society, a nonprofit organization and Town of Duncan Blessing Box.

CALL ELIZABETH RENNEKER ④ 864.316.5310 FOR TICKETS

JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE EVENING!



Women's Clubs



GFWC Southern Region Officers

Southern Region President

Laurie O'Kelly 316 Longbow Court Columbia. SC 29212 803-530-9665 - February 15 llok385@aol.com

Southern Region Vice President

Tammie McCov 263 North Main Street Pontotoc, MS 38863 662-790-4143 - August 17 mcco3938@bellsouth.net

Southern Region Secretary

Shari Carter 1010 Mabry Oaks Drive NE Brookhaven, GA 30319 770-490-4100 - March 25 scarter614@aol.com

Southern Region Treasurer Roberta Atkinson 5864 Heather Way Hoover, AL 35244 205-902-5503 - December 1 afwcrsa@gmail.com

Southern Region Parliamentary Advisor

Marian St.Clair 357 Riverside Drive Greenville, SC 29605 864-297-8632, 864-414-5697 - April 16 marian.stclair@gmail.com



Circle of Service

Food Insecurities

Heifer International Flock of Chicks

The theme for this administration is Circle of Service with a special focus on food insecurities. This is an area where all clubs can have an impact in their community, as well as internationally. Below are some ideas to support this project:

Local Impact:

- Donate to local food pantries
- Volunteer to work in a local food pantry
- Start a backpack program in your community or donate to a local backpack program
- Hold a food drive
- Deliver food to the elderly and shut-ins.

International Impact:

Make a donation to Heifer International's Flock of Chicks program. A \$20 donation will provide a family in need with a starter flock of 10-50 chicks along with training to empower them to turn the donation into a lifetime of opportunity. Each flock of chicks:

- Provides eggs and protein for nourishment
- Boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring
- Ensures security for generations through Passing on the Gift

Chickens require little space and can thrive on readily available scraps; this allows families to make money from the birds without spending much. And since a good hen can lay up to 200 eggs a year, a flock of chickens gift provides a steady source of nutrition and income.

Donations can be made to Heifer International at heifer.org in honor of GFWC Southern Region.

How will you impact your circle?



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE **GFWC Southern Region Conference**



Cooking up a Good Time in Greenville October 3-6, 2024

sponsor

Please consider a Personal, Business or Club Sponsorship.

Sponsorship Levels:

\$ 500 Paris Mountain

☐ \$ 100 Swamp Rabbit Trail ☐ \$ 50 Reedy River

Service Science Scienc

Other \$_____

All contributions will be recognized in the official

Southern Region Conference Program distributed to each attendee.

Fill in how you want to be listed in the program.

Make Checks Payable To: GFWC-SC C/O Carrie Zimmerman 605 White Oak Farms Road, Tamassee, SC 29686

Questions? czim22@gmail.com



GFWC SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by General Federation of Women's Clubs South Carolina Hyatt Regency, 220 N Main St. Greenville, SC October 3-6, 2024



Name	Address
City, State	ZipPhone
Email	State Federation

Please Complete the Following for Credentials:

Position	Title			Position	Title
GFWC Officer				Southern Region Officer	
GFWC Chairman				Southern Region Chairman	
GFWC Committee				Southern Region Committee	
State Federation Officer (title)					
Club Member 🛛	Club President 🛛	Booster 🗌	Guest		

Description		Cost	Total
Registration Fee	Full Conference	\$25.00	
Registration Fee	One Day Only	\$20.00	
Thursday, October 3	Board of Directors Dinner	\$65.00	
Friday, October 4	Continental Breakfast (7:00-8:30)	\$25.00	
	Tour: Greenville Art Museum, The Cook's Station	\$55.00	
	State Night Dinner	\$60.00	
	Junior Fun Night (9:30 or immediately following dinner)	\$20.00	
Saturday, October 5	Continental Breakfast (7:00-8:30)	\$25.00	
	Luncheon	\$49.00	
	Southern Region Dinner – Pork	\$64.00	
	– Chicken		
Sunday, October 6 Brunch		\$42.00	
Late Fee	\$40.00		
Total Due	Total		

Please list dietary restrictions:

Two ways to pay. Check one:

Pay by check. Submit your registration to jhprince@aol.com. Then mail your check made payable GFWC South Carolina to Janet Prince, 1550 McSwain Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169

_____ Pay by Zelle. Submit your registration to jhprince@aol.com. Send payment by bank account/Zelle and locate the account by this email: gfwcsouthcarolina2024@gmail.com

Hyatt Regency Greenville, 220 N Main St, Greenville, South Carolina 29601 - (864) 235-1234 Group Code G-GFW1 The room rate is \$175 for single/double occupancy, \$185 for triple occupancy, and \$195 for quadruple occupancy. Use this link or the QR code to book a room:

https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/GSPRG/G-GFW1



The deadline to reserve a room at the group rate is Thursday,

Allergies	Medication in Emergency	
Notify in Emergency	Phone	

September 12, 2024.



It's beginning to look a lot like Stocking Extravaganza Time!!!

The 2024 Christmas Stocking Extravaganza is coming soon and GFWC SC Headquarters needs the support of you and your club.

- On-line auction runs Black Friday, November 29, through Wednesday, December 4.
- In-person drop-in at Headquarters will be Tuesday, December 3 from 5 until 8 PM.
- Returning the 50/50 auction! Last year's winner received \$1230 (and so did Headquarters!).
- NEW Only at the drop-in, there will be several stockings that can be bid on, won, and taken home that evening. These will be only for drop-in attendees and will not be items found on the online site!
- Packets with all the Extravaganza information will be sent to club presidents by the first of September. Please make sure this information is shared at your September meetings!

Your Headquarters Committee is looking forward to participation by all the clubs in our state and hopes to see many, many of you at the in-person event to kick off the 2024 holiday season.

Questions? Susan Smith 803-446-6163 or Ann Malpass 803-622-0566

27

o Remember

September 21, 2024 World Alzheimer's Day

September 28, 2024 GFWC National Day of Service

October 3 - 31, 2024 Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 3 - 6, 2024 GFWC Southern Region Conference Greenville, SC - Hyatt Regency Downtown

October 20 - 26, 2024 GFWC Advocates for Children Week

December 2, 2024 GFWC Holiday Reception at 1734 N Street, Washington, DC

January 11, 2025 GFWC-SC Winter Board Meeting Hilton Garden Inn - Harbison

> February 8, 2025 GFWC-SC LEADS