



GFWC
South Carolina
CLUBWOMAN MAGAZINE

LET FREEDOM RING



AMERICA

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS
1776 ~ 2026



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

SOUTH CAROLINA

March 2026 | Volume 84 | Issue 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

March 2026 | Volume 84 | Issue 1

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents
3-8	Messages From GFWC-SC Executive Committee New Clubs Announced
9-12	GFWC SC Leads GFWC SC Legislation Day GFWC SC Resolutions GFWC Signature Program
13-18	Federation Day GFWC Junior Special Program Protocol for Poised, Powerful, and Purposeful Leadership GFWC Leadership Academy
19	GFWC SC Community Service Programs Club News
20-24	Candidates for GFWC SC 2026-2028
25-28	Bylaws
29-34	GFWC SC Convention
35	Dates To Remember GFWC-SC Poet Laureate

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

President-elect: 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: Katie Whitten
24 Beaufort Shores Court, Prosperity, SC 29127
kqwhitten@gmail.com 803-370-0158

Director of Junior Clubs: Michelle Blackmon
178 Foxworth Dr., Lexington, SC 29702
mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com 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
donnaanderson@charter.net 864-915-6523



Birds are singing, bulbs are peeking, it must be Spring!

As spring arrives, so do reports. Across the state, clubwomen are actively planning fundraisers and completing service projects as we near the close of the club year.

In January, we hosted a highly informative Winter Session via Zoom, where we learned more about our GFWC Affiliate Partner, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The session highlighted the far-reaching impact of St. Jude's research, which benefits children fighting cancer everywhere, not only those treated in Memphis. We were also pleased to announce that 22 clubs received a record amount of SCFWC Progress Foundation funding. In addition, we celebrated the federation of a new club, the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club, and announced plans to federate three more clubs prior to convention: Palmetto Leadership Club, Palmetto State Past Junior Directors, and even a Juniorette Club.



I have personally enjoyed traveling throughout the state to visit many of our clubs. These visits have been the most rewarding part of my presidency, and I hope to continue supporting clubs through installations and events even after passing the gavel in April.

Planning is well underway for what promises to be a wonderful convention in Myrtle Beach. GFWC International President-elect Wendy Carriker will join us as our special guest. There will be speakers from Sea Haven for Youth and an exciting video presentation from the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation. We will vote on our new slate of state officers and confirm elections conducted at district meetings. We'll also vote on proposed bylaw amendments (which complete our two year review), as well as a resolution presented by the GFWC Chapin Woman's Club. If approved, this resolution—supporting key elements of my President's Special Project—will be forwarded to GFWC for consideration at the 2027 International Convention.

On February 21, our LEADS Chairman, Janet Prince, organized another outstanding leadership seminar, LEADS: The Heart of Leadership. Twenty seven clubwomen participated in a full day of leadership development. My sincere thanks to Janet, Norma England (Leadership Chairman), all presenters, and attendees, as well as to the Woman's Club of Cayce for generously hosting us and providing their always warm hospitality.

As a reminder, please submit nominations for Volunteer of the Year, Woman of Distinction, Honor Roll, and Order of the Jessamine. Information for Volunteer of the Year and Woman of Distinction is available in the December 2025 Clubwoman (on our website), and Honor Roll and Order of the Jessamine forms can be found at <https://gfwc-sc.org>.

Please also mark your calendars for March 26, when we will gather at the South Carolina Statehouse for GFWC SC Legislation Day including lunch at Tupelo Honey. For details, contact Legislation and Public Policy Chairman Peggy Aun at aunthefmove@gmail.com. We hope for a strong turnout so please consider joining us for this important day.

There is much more to share, but for now, I look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach in April, where I can thank you in person for the privilege of serving as your president and where we can celebrate our incoming administration together.

In Federation Love,

Suzanne

Suzanne Carswell
GFWC-SC President





Hello GFWC Sisters,

I hope you and your families stayed warm during our recent snowstorm and that your children and grandchildren were able to step outside, press pause on screens, and embrace the season—building snowmen, making snow angels, and launching joyful snowball fights. My boys certainly did, their laughter was a spark of delight in our home.

I look forward to reading reports and seeing which clubs shine as the blue flame, torch, and glowing embers among us—igniting service and community impact across South Carolina.

As my time serving as South Carolina Junior Director nears its close, I hope the Junior Special Project remains emblazoned on your hearts as you interact with the young minds in your communities. These moments of encouragement and leadership help kindle a fire that will grow in years to come.



Below are cold-weather outdoor activities to help spark creativity, movement, and connection for kids:

Easy + No-Prep

- Hide and seek
- Red light, green light
- Follow the leader (add silly moves!)
- Nature walk with “I Spy”
- Cloud watching and storytelling
- Hopscotch (chalk or sticks)
- Simon Says

High-Energy / Burn-It-Out Games

- Obstacle course (cones, sticks, chairs)
- Sack or pillowcase races
- Relay races
- Capture the flag
- Tug-of-war
- Wheelbarrow races

Calm & Focused Activities

- Scavenger hunt
- Bug hunt (look, don't touch)
- Rock collecting and painting
- Reading picnic
- Outdoor puzzles or board games
- Journaling or drawing what you see

Learning Disguised as Fun

- Counting birds, cars, or bugs
- Shadow tracing
- Measuring distances or jump lengths



Bonus Crowd-Pleasers

- Glow sticks at dusk
- Flashlight tag
- Campfire stories (real or pretend)
- Backyard movie night
- Picnic dinner outside

I'm honored to share that a Junior Clubwoman has been nominated by our Junior Board to serve as the 2026–2028 Director-Elect of Junior Clubs: Ann Dosen from the Chapin Junior Women's Club. Please see her introduction and bio included in this issue. I know she will do wonderful things for South Carolina as she serves alongside Courtney Evans, keeping the flame of service burning brightly.

Lastly I want to share some great resources from GFWC that the Junior Directors have worked very hard to create (see links below). These are great tools to spark new ideas, recruit and retain members, and strengthen leadership skills in our Junior clubs. Feel free to share!

Junior club promotional video

<https://youtu.be/LUeuWoCA7Y4>

Junior leadership certification

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs0dMsVfC0ZDLtkxw0ma71zIhSLgIX4Ta&si=bWjwIsRf-43lH1kz>

In Junior Love,

Michelle

Michelle Blackmon

GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs

NEW CLUBS ANNOUNCED!

Don't forget ... you can be a member of more than one club! Especially when it's virtual!

GFWC Palmetto Leadership Club – We know you have been hearing a little bit about the new virtual club we are starting – GFWC Palmetto Leadership Club. This club is open to all who serve or would like to serve in a leadership role in their club or at the state level. It will be a great opportunity to meet your counterparts from other clubs, share ideas and gain more information. It will be a place where we can share leadership tips and ideas, struggles and concerns, no matter what role you are in with your club or in the state. This innovative club will operate exclusively via Zoom or another such platform, making it accessible to women from any part of our state that are interested in developing their leadership skills further and networking with other leaders. We invite you to join us as a founding member! The club application is available on our <https://gfwc-sc.org> website. If you would like more information, please contact Janet Prince at jhprince@aol.com or 803-665-9667.

Palmetto State Past Junior Directors Club – If you are a past Director of Junior Clubs, there will be a Zoom meeting on re-federating the Past Junior Director club on March 10. Contact mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com for more information!

Message From

Kaye Jones, GFWC SC President-elect

I cannot believe these two years are almost over! I have so enjoyed being your First Vice President – you have all impressed me with all you do for our communities and state.

Now is the time to shine though. I hope all of you have reported your club work as this provides an important historical for the future. As our International President Suellen Brazil said recently,
“Every report is a chapter of our story. Let’s tell it boldly!”



ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS! One thing you can do to honor and preserve the history of your club is to present Service Anniversary Pins to your members hitting milestones.

We would love to be able to award 25, 50, 70 & 75 year milestone anniversaries at our convention in April. Please contact Kaye Jones, President-elect/Membership Chairman, with requests for your club members’ anniversary pins. Pins are available in 5 year increments from 15 to 75 years. Pins are \$5 each. GFWC-SC will pay for the 25 year pin and GFWC will pay for the 50 and 75 year pins. Please bring your payment for the pins ordered to convention and give to me.

Email Kaye at kayegfwcsc@aol.com by March 20, 2026 your service anniversary members so that the pins can be ordered. They will be presented at our April Convention.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 2026 Annual Convention April 17-19 at the Marina Inn at Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach!

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Attention Club Presidents or Membership Chair

Don’t forget to send in the GFWC 2024-2026 Membership **“EDUCATE, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN REPORT”** for new club members. Please report to GFWC any new club members in the last quarter (or any you have missed in 2025) by April 1. The final deadline for this administration is July 1. By sending this to GFWC, your new members are added to the federation totals and start receiving information from GFWC. If you have any questions, please contact Kaye Jones, Membership Chairs.



Message From

Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC SC Second Vice President

As your 2nd Vice President one of the main jobs is reporting. Reporting allows clubs to describe their impact that they make on their communities! We have had a lot of clubs that have taken advantage of this opportunity and even won awards at the GFWC International convention!



State and district reports are due March 15. In the December Clubwoman the directions are posted inside! Open it up from your email and learn all about the fun ways to capture your clubs' achievements!

I would like to thank our chairman for their assistance in making reporting manageable. With their help in judging our awesome State reports we can showcase our State at the GFWC level! Some highlighted reports that clubs still have time include the GFWC Writing and Photography contests, Honor Roll, Order of the Jessamine, Jeanie Award, Volunteer of the Year, Woman of Distinction, and many more. Please look in the December Clubwoman!

This administration has been amazing! I want to thank President Carswell for her wonderful leadership and attention to detail! I have enjoyed representing our State as the Second Vice President and cannot wait to see you all at the convention in April!

In Federation Love,

Carrie



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

SOUTH CAROLINA

Message From

Katie Whitten, GFWC-SC Treasurer



As I transition into my role as Treasurer for GFWC-SC, the past several months have been dedicated to collecting, recording, and reporting club dues. I appreciate all members who submitted payments promptly. I am eager to learn how recipients of Progress Foundation grants will utilize their awards.

With spring underway, many clubs are beginning to prepare budgets for the upcoming year. While this process may vary among clubs, establishing a robust annual operating budget offers significant advantages.

A carefully developed budget promotes financial stability and supports the achievement of organizational objectives. It enables prudent resource management and informed spending decisions. Additionally, an effective budget assists club leadership in monitoring income and expenditures, prioritizing initiatives aligned with the club's mission, and mitigating the risk of financial shortfalls.

For those unfamiliar with the budgeting process, I recommend utilizing the GFWC Learning Academy's resources. The Financial Fundamentals section includes a course on Building Effective Club Budgets that may be beneficial.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention in Myrtle Beach, where, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I will present the proposed 2026-2027 GFWC-SC budget.

In Federation Love,

Katie

Message From

Kaye Hunke, GFWC SC Secretary



Happy New Year! I hope your New Year is off to a great start. I got a chance to see many of you at the Stocking Extravaganza in December. I hope you enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship. It is always THE event that starts off my Christmas holiday.

Due to inclement weather, we had Winter Board via Zoom. It was very informative and there was a great turnout.

As a reminder, if you give a report at any GFWC-SC meeting, please either bring an extra copy for me or email me a copy at khunke@aol.com.

Looking forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach in April.

In Federation Love,

Kaye

GFWC SC LEADS

LEADS 2026 -- The Heart of Leadership was held on Saturday, February 21st to a room full of eager club leaders from across the state. We had 25 attendees and 14 leaders there presenting and showing their support! It was a highly successful day and one that offered the attendees a look behind the scenes of what club and state leaders are responsible for throughout the year. They learned how to write a resolution and all about by-laws. They also learned how to approach their state and local representatives through a presentation on Legislative & Public Policy. Plus, Strategic Planning, Succession Planning, Mentoring, Reporting, History of Clubs and Branding & Social Media. The speakers were outstanding and are willing to help not only our LEADS candidates, but anyone else interested in improving their leadership skills. We would like to thank the Woman's Club of Cayce for once again allowing us to use their clubhouse!



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



The **GFWC-SC Legislation Day** at the South Carolina Statehouse promises to be an inspiring and educational experience. On **Thursday, March 26, 2026**, we will gather at the beautiful South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia to learn more about the legislative process, meet with lawmakers, and advocate for issues important to our communities.

- 9:15 Meet just inside the entrance to the Statehouse security post
- 10:00 GFWC-SC will be introduced to the body of the House of Representatives

Legislation Day provides a valuable opportunity to:

- Observe the General Assembly in session
- Meet with state legislators
- Discuss key issues impacting South Carolina communities
- Strengthen our voice as advocates for civic engagement

Lunch at Tupelo Honey

Following our visit to the Statehouse, we will enjoy lunch together at **Tupelo Honey**, a favorite Columbia restaurant known for its Southern hospitality and delicious cuisine.

RSVP Information

If you plan to attend or have questions, please email **Peggy Aun** at: aunmove@gmail.com

Together, let's continue to stay engaged, stay informed, and—most importantly—**Raise Our United Voices!**

GFWC SC Resolutions Committee

The Resolution for the Support for Native Plants and Biodiversity has been submitted by the GFWC Chapin Woman's Club for consideration and approval.

GFWC-SC Environment and Support for Native Plants and Biodiversity

Whereas, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in specific geographic regions, ecosystems, and habitats; and

Whereas, native plants play a vital role in maintaining healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems by cleaning the air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and

Whereas, native plants are uniquely adapted to the, climate, and environmental conditions of the United States, making them ideal for conserving natural resources and promoting ecological resilience; and

Whereas, native plants provide essential food sources—such as nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage—for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife, in ways non-native plants cannot; and

Whereas, The United States is home to an impressive diversity of native plants: approximately 18,800 species of native plants such as trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses; and

Whereas, 940 plant species are officially listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species act of 1973. This represents approximately 11% of the 18, 800 Unites States native plant species.

Whereas, increasing public awareness about the importance of native plants supports pollinator populations, strengthens biodiversity, contributes to economic sustainability, and safeguards the United States ecological heritage;

Resolved, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to promote the use and conservation of native plants by supporting community education, advocating for native plant landscaping, removing invasive non-native species, and participating in restoration and preservation efforts to protect the biodiversity and environmental health of the United States

GFWC Signature Program

As your signature program chair and a member of the SC Human Trafficking Task Force, I wanted to share two important things with you.

1. The South Carolina Attorney General's Office released a 114-page report today that details the extent of known human trafficking throughout the state in 2025 and what agencies and groups are doing to combat it. In 2025, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division investigated 315 tips that included over 300 potential victims. A majority of the tips investigated involved minor victims. Nine counties saw double-digit investigation numbers. Greenville County topped off the list with 35 investigations in 2025, and it was joined by Berkeley, Charleston, Richland, Lexington, Dorchester, Spartanburg, Horry and Anderson counties in having more than 10 investigations.

National Human Trafficking Hotline data was not included this year due to an operator transition. I'm providing a link to the report should you want to check specifics for your area of the state. Here is the link to this year's annual report. https://www.scag.gov/media/btihjcor/2025annualreport_1-9-26.pdf

2. The Governor signed a proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, see page 11.

Please remind your club members; to report an incident or seek victim services, they can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888. The Hotline is confidential and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime against humanity that negatively impacts millions of lives worldwide, including throughout the United States and South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking, including children, youth, and adults, face unimaginable hardships including the loss of their dignity, freedom, and basic rights through commercial sexual exploitation, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina is committed to advocating for the wellbeing of all its residents by protecting the vulnerable through prevention education and awareness as well as continued efforts to support victims, investigate cases, and prosecute traffickers; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is committed to partnering with regional and national allies to strengthen our efforts toward the elimination of human trafficking and its traumatic impact on our communities; and

WHEREAS, the statewide Human Trafficking Task Force works to support the efforts of South Carolina stakeholders, including regional task forces and community advocates, and guide the strategic approach to combat this crime; and

WHEREAS, this year's observance of Human Trafficking Awareness Month affirms South Carolina's commitment to individual freedoms and the elimination of human trafficking in all its oppressive forms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 2026 as

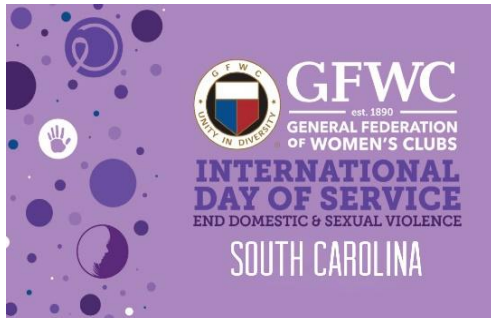
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the vital role each person has in the prevention of human trafficking as well as the power of our collective efforts in ending this crime in our communities.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Henry D. McMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**HENRY DARGAN McMMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



Congratulations! “job well done” for the vital work you did in so many creative and meaningful ways during the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service.

You truly came together to address Domestic Violence in all its forms.

As your chair for the 2025 International Day of Service, I would like to encourage you to **“Save The Date”** and begin planning and getting excited for the **2026 International Day of Service**, scheduled for **Saturday, September 26th**, the focus is the same, to help end domestic and sexual violence across the United States and internationally. Hopefully, the following list will help you get started in planning for your event this year.

- Be sure to register your club when requested by GFWC
- Form an IDS committee NOW (to plan what your club will do in September)
- Include local organizations in your community when brainstorming what could be done and how you can support them
- Include organizations within South Carolina (who are advocates) in your planning, a fitting example is the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault or any of the many member organizations they collaborate with
- Get club members involved, actively recruit them to participate
- Ask all club members to invite a friend (not a current member) to join in your plans
- Reach out to local community leaders to support your club activity. For example, Mayor, Local Businesses, Schools, Churches, etc.
- Work with your City Hall to create a Proclamation
- Keep your club members updated and involved by generating excitement about what you are doing
- Develop promotional materials and signage to engage your local community
- Reach out to community media/press (many cities have a Public Information Officer)
- Use Social Media, GFWC-SC, and your own Facebook page to promote your event

Please utilize all the resources available to you as you plan. Access the GFWC Club Website, member portal, there is a wealth of information and ideas. I’m praying each of our clubs have nothing but success for your 2026 International Day of Service! Permit me a moment to thank President Suzanne Carswell for giving me the opportunity to serve South Carolina as Chair of the 2025 International Day of Service and to Chair the 2024-2026 GFWC’s Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention.



Signature Program

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Connie Lawson, Program Chair, 2024-2026

SC Chair – 2025 International Day of Service

cslawsonusa@aol.com

301-325-2032 Cell



FEDERATION DAY 2026

“Making a Difference in SC and beyond!”

GFWC-SC Clubs are invited and encouraged to make a video about how you’ve made a difference in your community (and/or beyond) through a 2025 club project.

Include the following in your audio:

- o Name of member narrating
- o Name of club
- o Name of project
- o A description of a project from 2025 and how it made a difference. It could be an event which raised funds for a specific cause; it could be a project organized through a CSP or Special Project; it could be a collection drive; it might be a hands-on work project.
- o Who and how many benefitted! (who it benefitted; \$ raised; personal connection to mission; testimonial from recipient organization)

Equipment needed: recording device; cell phones will work wonderfully; there is no need to go out and buy/rent fancy equipment.

A series of still pictures/photos can be put together for a voice-over.

.

Suggested time: 2 minutes or less. Your club is certainly welcome to do more.

.

Video should be submitted by your club president or other club leader to Tina Majors. The message in the video may be delivered by one or more individual members or the Club President or another club leader with the president’s approval.

I am looking for a few clubwomen to help with technology for clubs who ask for technology assistance. Contact Tina Majors at communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com.

Contact Tina Majors, Communications and Public Relations Chairman, for assistance no later than **March 15, 2026** at communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com.

Videos are due to Tina Majors, Communication and Public Relations Chairman by **April 1, 2026** at communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com.

Depending on the responses received, we may additionally video some presentations at the 2026 GFWC SC Spring Convention.

Now, get to planning those awesome videos, telling the GFWC-SC stories about “Making a Difference!” Thank you!

Junior Special Program

Suzanne Hooser, Chairman



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



12-Month Child Advocacy Calendar

January – Healthy Beginnings **Focus:** Child wellness & stability

Ideas: Provide healthy snacks for shelters
Promote and participate in mentoring programs
Share information on cold and flu preventions



February – Kindness & Inclusion **Focus:** Emotional well-being

Ideas: Promote a kindness challenge in a school
Sponsor a Buddy Bench
Support your school counselors



March – Literacy & Education **Focus:** Reading & learning

Ideas: Bring awareness to Read Across America Day
Sponsor a book drive of children's books
Volunteer to read to children

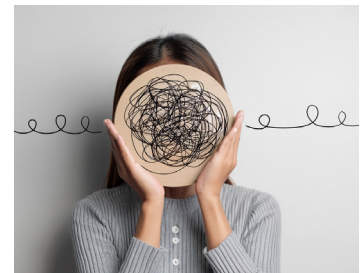
April – Child Abuse Prevention **Focus:** Safety & protection

Ideas: Plant a blue pinwheel garden to raise awareness
Support Child Advocacy centers
Wear Blue on "Wear Blue for Awareness day-Friday April 3rd
2026



May – Mental Health Matters **Focus:** Youth mental wellness

Ideas: Share local Mental Health Resources on social media
Host a mental health fair or invite speakers to your meeting



June – Celebrating Childhood **Focus:** Play, joy & creativity

Ideas: Celebrate International Children's Day (June 1) by
hosting a family fun day
Donate playground supplies

July – Friendship & Belonging **Focus:** Social connection
Ideas: Support anti-bullying initiatives
host friendship-building events
Promote your local inclusive youth programs



August – Back-to-School Support **Focus:** Education readiness
Ideas: Host a Backpack or a school supply drive
Support local teachers
Mentor in classrooms or after school



September – Hope & Healing **Focus:** Children facing illness & trauma
Ideas: Share awareness for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Support St Jude’s Children’s Hospital
Host awareness for Suicide Prevention with other organizations

October – Bullying Prevention **Focus:** Safe environments
Ideas: Awareness campaigns on Bullying Prevention Month
Support World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)
Promote awareness on Cyber bullying



November – Every Child Belongs **Focus:** Family stability
Ideas: Support Foster-care programs
Celebrate World Children’s Day (Nov 20) on social media
Host a clothing drive

December – Season of Giving **Focus:** Holiday joy & generosity
Ideas: Adopt a Family for Christmas
Sponsor a toy drive
Host a Holiday party with a school or youth program



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PRINT THIS OUT FOR YOUR MEETINGS AND CLUB PLANNING FOR SPARKING IDEAS!



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

Protocol for Poised, Powerful, and Purposeful Leadership

Cynthia Geis, 2024-2026 Protocol Chairman

Protocol for Presiding Officers:

- Learn and follow the rules of protocol and parliamentary procedures.
- Always be prompt, punctual, and organized.
- Pay attention to assist the officers and chairmen in the performance of their duties.
- Be optimistic, friendly, enthusiastic, creative, and open to new ideas.

Protocol for Order of Rank:

- The first rule of protocol is to establish rank.
- Officers are ranked accordingly to their listing in the organizations bylaws.
- The President holds the highest rank within her own region, state, district, or club.

Protocol for Invitations and Care of Guests:

- Invited guests and speakers should be told in the invitation the meeting type, time schedule, and appropriate attire.
- When Federation officers are invited, the invitation should indicate what their responsibilities will be.

Protocol for Opening Ceremonies and Prayers:

- God before Country; prayer should be nondenominational and all-inclusive. All GFWC prayers should end with a simple "Amen."
- Salute the flag when it comes into view; at ease when the colors are posted.
- The National Anthem is sung or played before the Pledge of Allegiance.

Protocol for the Head Table (Business Meeting):

- The presiding officer is seated to the right of the lectern; the Parliamentarian is to the left of the lectern. Remaining officers are alternated from left to right according to rank. Guests may be placed between officers.
- When a higher-ranking president is a guest, the visiting president is placed to the right of the presiding officer, while other visiting officers are alternated left to right according to rank.

Protocol is an important factor in the success of all organizations.

Explore the NEW



The wait is over, the launch of the GFWC Learning Academy is here!

The GFWC Learning Academy is GFWC's online training platform, offering a variety of courses tailored to meet the needs of its members. Members seeking insight and training to advance their skill set and knowledge will find the training videos helpful as they continue their journey as club members and leaders.

These training videos can be utilized to enhance personal skills, train and expand club leader/member knowledge, used as programs during club meetings, or share information from past GFWC Learning Gateway Series.

GFWC has made it easy for you to build your technology toolkit, uncover the importance of financial oversight, learn how to utilize governing documents for club success...and so much more as a benefit of belonging to the oldest women's volunteer organization.

Follow the link below to access the GFWC Learning Academy and begin your path to lifelong learning.

[Visit the GFWC Learning Academy](#)

GFWC SC Community Service Programs

Thank you for your enlightening reports and in-depth statistics in the Health and Wellness CSP area. I am so impressed with the many areas of Health and Wellness that you have worked in during the past year. Please keep up the good work.

I am off again this year to participate in the 2026 Advocacy Summit Training in Washington, DC. I feel very honored to be a part of this global health group with Shot@life and United to Beat Malaria. We will be training to meet with our Senators and Congressional Representatives seeking support for these worthwhile endeavors. As you know, South Carolina has an alarming measles outbreak. Please be supportive of vaccinations to curb this outbreak.

Please be mindful of your diet - eating protein, fruits, and vegetables. Superfoods are nutrient-dense foods like berries, leafy greens, salmon, nuts, seeds, and avocados. These foods are packed with antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, fiber, and healthy fats. Don't forget to get out and get some good old Vitamin D - sunshine is free - as is walking. Find a walking partner and enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Dianne McIntosh McCarty, Health & Wellness Chairman
diannemccarty@gmail.com, 803-553-1189



Club News

ALL IN FOR HOPE
AIKEN JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB
3RD ANNUAL
CASINO NIGHT
BENEFITING THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
MARCH 14, 2026
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
at the
AIKEN COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Tickets starting at \$45
Dinner included with ticket purchase
Cash Bar ✨ Raffle ✨ Casino Games
Sponsorship opportunities start at \$250



GFWC
 est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
SOUTH CAROLINA

2026 - 2028

CANDIDATES FOR

My name is Carrie Zimmerman and I have been a GFWC-SC member for 18 years. I am a current member of the Seneca Junior Woman's Club. I am married to my husband Jason of 24 years and have two children, Zoe and Gavin. We live in the Upstate of SC in Tamasee, SC. I have lived in SC and have worked for the State of SC in the social work field for over 25 years. I currently work for the School District of Oconee County as the School and Community Liaison.



CARRIE ZIMMERMAN
 CANDIDATE FOR
 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Volunteering is something I have done most of my life. When I moved to SC volunteerism was a way for me to meet new people and make new friends. I volunteered in my community and found a local club within a few years in Walhalla, SC.

My history with GFWC-SC started when friend, Sandra Mattox, a founding member of WJWC, brought me to a meeting of WJWC in 2007 and I was hooked. I chaired programs and served in all executive positions in WJWC. WJWC de-federated in 2018, but I joined Seneca Junior Woman's Club and currently serve as Secretary.

On the GFWC-SC State level, I have served as a District President from 2013-2016 and represented GFWC-SC as the LEAD's candidate in 2015. GFWC-SC elected me as Junior Director-Elect and served from 2015-2018. I became Director of Junior Clubs of GFWC-SC from 2018-2020, serving with past President, Juliet Casper. I served as GFWC-SC Treasurer from 2020-2024 and now am the current 2nd Vice President of GFWC-SC.

Serving as GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs started my journey with GFWC leadership. In 2020-2022 I was appointed as GFWC Junior Special Program Chairman. During the 2022-2024 administration I was part of the committee of the Signature Program and on the Junior Executive Committee. During the 2024-2026 administration I am the current Chairman of the Signature Program and continue as the Junior Executive Committee representative. For the 2026-2028 administration I will be a part of the Membership Committee.

GFWC-SC and GFWC has opened so many doors including; new friendships, leadership skills, better communication skills, technology skills and the ability to travel all over the world. GFWC fills my cup to serve others and give back to my community, state and internationally. #IamGFWC #GFWCSCJuniorsRock #GFWCSC



GFWC
 est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
SOUTH CAROLINA

2026 - 2028

CANDIDATES FOR

As a second-generation clubwoman, Katie Moydell grew up understanding the importance of volunteering. Her mother shared her passion for giving back to the community at an early age.

Katie joined Junior Woman's Club of Columbia in 2009, and served as President from 2013-2014.

Active in the South Carolina Federation, Katie has served various positions including Fundraising Chair, Advocates for Children Chair, Progress Foundation Committee Member, Midlands District President, and President Special Program Chair. Katie was installed as South Carolina Director of Junior Clubs in 2014 and served two consecutive terms. Katie received the Millie Crom Gold Award for Excellence in 2016, 2017, and was named Outstanding Director of Junior Clubs (Category 4) in 2014.



**KATIE MOYDELL
 CANDIDATE FOR
 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Katie served as the 36th international GFWC Director of Junior Clubs from 2022-2024. She successfully designed and implemented the GFWC Junior Leadership Certification program as part of her legacy. Katie served on the Leadership Committee prior to her role as Director and is the current Community Improvement Program Chairman.

A lifetime supporter of Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services, Katie joined the board in 2010 and served Board President 2017-2019. As a member of the capital campaign strategic planning committee, Katie helped plan and execute a successful million-dollar campaign to renovate the shelter. By virtue of her position in JWC-Columbia, Katie has re-joined the BOD for Palmetto Place.

A Carolina girl, born and raised; she attended The University of South Carolina. Katie is the Director of Life Underwriting and UW Compliance at Colonial Life and attributes her GFWC experiences to many of her career successes.

Katie knows that without her family, nothing would be possible. She resides in Columbia with her most favorite people: her husband, Matt; son, Collin; and their spoiled rotten dog, Lulu. Their endless support and encouragement allow Katie to follow her passion.



GFWC
 est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
SOUTH CAROLINA

2026 - 2028

CANDIDATES FOR

Kathy Heagen has served as the President of the GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club from 2024-2026, focusing on community awareness, service and advocacy. During her administration, she has helped strengthen the club's outreach by supporting domestic violence awareness projects like the International day of service, paint the town purple and the domestic violence walk all of which included community partnerships, public awareness events and fundraising efforts benefiting local support organizations. She also created a recognition award called the "Super Chick Award" given to two members each month who went above and beyond in their committee work.



KATHY HEAGEN
CANDIDATE FOR
SECRETARY

A dedicated member to GFWC since 2010, Kathy also served as the Corresponding Secretary from 2012 – 2014 and First VP from 2020-2022. She Chaired the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes from 2013 through 2016 and served on the Education Committee, Civic Engagement Committee and Nominating Committee. Most recently she served on the GFWC Membership Taskforce Committee from 2024-2026.

Professionally, Kathy spent more than 30 years providing executive level support to senior leadership in the Medical, Manufacturing, Banking, Software and High-Tech industries. She retired from ThreatQuotient a cybersecurity company in 2020. Her career required strong organizational skills and the ability to manage complex initiative which she now brings to her volunteer work.

Kathy is passionate about community service and empowering other women to embrace leadership opportunities within GFWC and beyond. She and her husband, Steve have been married for 46 years and are the proud parents of two adult children, Doug and Stephanie, and one grandson, Tanner.



GFWC
 est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**
SOUTH CAROLINA

2026 - 2028

CANDIDATES FOR

Originally from East Tennessee, I have come to identify as a South Carolinian. After spending some time in Richmond, Virginia, my family relocated to Columbia, where I graduated from Irmo High School. Upon earning a degree in Economics and an MBA from Winthrop University, I established myself in Rock Hill, residing there for 37 years.



KATIE WHITTEN
CANDIDATE FOR
TREASURER

During my career, I worked in various fields including Sales, Marketing, Human Resources, and Financial Services, eventually retiring from ADP in 2016. In retirement, I've remained active in the community through the GFWC-Chapin Woman's Club, serving six years as Treasurer and one year as Vice President for Community Service Projects. Currently, I am Chair of the Finance Committee and Treasurer for GFWC-South Carolina.

Recently, I've found a new passion for mahjong and spend Wednesday afternoons leading and teaching groups. I also continue to enjoy bridge and knitting. Now, I live in Prosperity with my two beagles.



ANN DOSEN
CANDIDATE FOR
DIRECTOR ELECT OF JUNIOR CLUBS

My name is Ann Dosen. I lead with heart, vision, and tireless dedication. I have been an active member of the Chapin Junior Woman's Club since 2018, served as VP of Membership for two years, and most recently completed a three year term as President-Elect, President, and Past-President Advisor for CJWC. I have had the honor of leading our club through significant growth and renewed community impact.

I am the owner and founder of PodiatryMeetings.com, a nationally recognized media and events company serving the podiatry industry. I offer a wealth of knowledge in communications, marketing, and leadership; skills I readily share with colleagues and club members.

I have been told I have an exceptional ability to organize and inspire. I am known for my bold leadership style, creative vision, and fierce commitment.

I am originally from Clearwater, Florida and relocated to South Carolina in 2018 after my husband fell in love with Lake Murray. I am a homeschooling mom of three boys, 15 year old Mickey, 11 year old Henry, and 16 month old Joey. I am passionate about creating a welcoming space where women feel a sense of connection and purpose. Fun fact: my dog Moose, a 100 pound Weimador, was a gift from Zac Brown of the Zac Brown Band.

Being a member of the Chapin Junior Woman's Club has changed my life and I am honored to be part of a group of women who are changing lives every single day.

REPORT OF THE GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report of the GFWC South Carolina Elections Committee

Candidates for 2026-2028 GFWC-SC Executive Officers

First Vice President: Caroline (Carrie) Zimmerman

Second Vice President: Katie Moydell

Secretary: Kathy Heagen

Treasurer: Katie Whitten

Confirmations of State and District Elections 2026-2028

GFWC-SC Officers and Executive Committee Members

President: Kaye Jones

Director of Junior Clubs: Courtney Evans

Director Elect of Junior Clubs: Ann Dosen

GFWC-SC District Presidents

Coastal District: Lynn Macan

Midlands District: Susan Lee

Upstate District: Elizabeth Renneker

GFWC-SC Board of Trustees (all serve 2026-2028)

Coastal District: Karen Adams, Sue Burgess, Will be elected at a later date

Midlands District: Linda Wagster, Kaye Hunke, Shelli Pue

Upstate District: Shannon Smith, Rika Castaldo, Noelle Knutson

Trustee of Progress Foundation (all serve 2026-2028)

Coastal District: Anne Redlus, Tracy Sauer, Melissa Smith

Midlands District: Paula Pinner, Lynne Hauptner, Mykita Levy

Upstate District: Kim Crean, Anne Charlesworth, Donna Anderson

Trustees for the Scholarship Fund (all serve 2026-2028)

Coastal District: Margret Stevens, Judy Benson, Tiffney Cullum

Midlands District: Shannon Payne, DeAna Sharpe, Janet Prince

Upstate District: Mendy Haver, Patti Rubenzer, Adriana Marlow

Elections/Confirmations shall be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday April 18, 2026.

GFWC-SC Bylaws Article XI – Nominations, Elections and Vacancies provides that additional nominations for GFWC-SC Executive Offices may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee has been secured and nominee meets the eligibility criteria set forth in said Article XI.

2024-2026 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Juliet Casper, Chairman; Bobbie Sox, Myrna Loy, Suzanne Carswell, Marian St. Clair, and Michelle Blackmon

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GFWC-SC CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS IN 2026

The committee resumed its review of the Bylaws by beginning with Article VIII. The following are proposed changes to be presented for consideration at the 2026 GFWC-SC Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Proposed additions are noted in [bold text and surrounded by brackets]. Proposed deletions are noted in ~~strikethrough text~~.

1. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE VIII—DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 8.

The Director of Junior Clubs shall be the official representative of the junior membership at all meetings. She shall hold at least three (3) junior meetings during a one-year period. She shall be responsible for the disbursement of reports to the proper chairmen and shall select judges for the Junior Cup entries. She shall submit a report to the GFWC Director of Junior Clubs as specified. She shall also serve on the Convention Program Committee and the Convention Planning Committee.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the third sentence strike ~~disbursement of reports to the proper chairmen and shall select~~. Insert [the selection of]

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE VIII—DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 8.

The Director of Junior Clubs shall be the official representative of the junior membership at all meetings. She shall hold at least three (3) junior meetings during a one-year period. She shall be responsible for the selection of judges for the Junior Cup entries. She shall submit a report to the GFWC Director of Junior Clubs as specified. She shall also serve on the Convention Program Committee and the Convention Planning Committee.

RATIONALE: To reflect current practice.

2. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Section 1.

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the President or three (3) members of the Committee, but no less than once per quarter. The Executive Committee shall transact any emergency matters between sessions of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall approve the minutes of Conventions, Board meetings, and Board of Directors meetings.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the second sentence, as a housekeeping matter add [e] before emergency. Add to the last sentence after approve [vendor contracts, and]

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Section 1.

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the President or three (3) members of the Committee, but no less than once per quarter. The Executive Committee shall transact any emergency matters between sessions of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall approve vendor contracts, and the minutes of Conventions, Board meetings, and Board of Directors meetings.

RATIONALE: Housekeeping; To reflect the financial duties of the Executive Committee.

3. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
Section 5.

The members of the Board of Trustees for the S.C.F.W.C. Progress Foundation shall be governed by the terms of the Trust Agreement. They shall handle all funds and property of the Foundation only in accordance with the provisions as set forth in Section Seven of the Trust Agreement.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: At the end of the first sentence, insert **[, which is on file at GFWC-SC Headquarters and available for review by the Executive Committee]**

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
Section 5.

The members of the Board of Trustees for the S.C.F.W.C. Progress Foundation shall be governed by the terms of the Trust Agreement, which is on file at GFWC-SC Headquarters and available for review by the Executive Committee. They shall handle all funds and property of the Foundation only in accordance with the provisions as set forth in Section Seven of the Trust Agreement.

RATIONALE: To provide transparency.

4. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
Section 6.

The Board of Trustees of the GFWC-SC Scholarship Fund shall have charge of the investment of the Scholarship Fund. They shall dispense the accumulated interest as scholarships with the approval of the Board of Directors.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Insert **[The GFWC-SC Treasurer shall provide a financial report regarding the Scholarship Fund to]**, strike ~~shall have charge of the investment of the Scholarship Fund.~~ In the second sentence strike ~~dispense~~ and replace with **[award]**, then insert after scholarships **[at the end of each administration]**

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE IX—DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
Section 6.

The GFWC-SC Treasurer shall provide a financial report regarding the Scholarship fund to the Board of Trustees of the GFWC-SC Scholarship. They shall award the accumulated interest as scholarships at the end of each administration with the approval of the Board of Directors.

RATIONALE: To reflect current practice.

5. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE X PAST PRESIDENTS

Presidents of GFWC-SC shall become GFWC-SC Past Presidents for life at the close of the last session of their service as President. GFWC-SC Past Presidents shall have voting privileges at the annual meeting provided they are residents of South Carolina and are dues-paying members of GFWC-SC.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the second sentence, strike ~~are residents of South Carolina and~~

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE X PAST PRESIDENTS

Presidents of GFWC-SC shall become GFWC-SC Past Presidents for life at the close of the last session of their service as President. GFWC-SC Past Presidents shall have voting privileges at the annual meeting provided are dues-paying members of GFWC-SC.

RATIONALE: To update and encourage past presidents to continue to be involved with GFWC-SC when they may move out of state.

6. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Nominations. All officers, with the exception of District Presidents, shall be elected biennially in even numbered years. To be eligible for office, a candidate (1) must be an active member in good standing of a club in direct membership; (2) has been a GFWC-SC member for three or more years; (3) has served as either a club president, District President, or GFWC-SC Chairman; (4) is a legal resident of South Carolina. The Elections Committee shall meet no later than January 31st in the even-numbered years to prepare a complete list of nominees for the office of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Junior Clubs, Director-elect of Junior Clubs, three District Presidents, and other various offices to be filled, to be made a part of the Call to Convention. The nominees for District Presidents shall have been selected and approved by their respective Districts at the previous District Conference. The list of proposed nominees shall be submitted for publication in the Call to Convention in the March issue of the Clubwoman Magazine. The Special Assistant to the President shall be appointed by the President with whom she shall serve, and shall be installed at the same time as other officers.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the first paragraph second sentence (2) strike ~~three~~ and replace with **[four]**. In the last sentence of the first paragraph, strike ~~, and shall be installed at the same time as other officers.~~

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Nominations. All officers, with the exception of District Presidents, shall be elected biennially in even numbered years. To be eligible for office, a candidate (1) must be an active member in good standing of a club in direct membership; (2) has been a GFWC-SC member for four or more years; (3) has

served as either a club president, District President, or GFWC-SC Chairman; (4) is a legal resident of South Carolina.

RATIONALE: To reflect the current practice of serving two year terms and the Special Assistant does not need to be installed.

7. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 2. Elections. Elections by Convention shall be held on the morning of the second day beginning at 11:00 a.m. The state Elections Committee shall conduct the election and be responsible for coordinating the voting process. Paper ballots shall be used for all elections (contested or not). The Elections Committee shall gather the ballots and along with the Parliamentary Advisor, count the votes. Results of votes shall be given to the state President and reported to the convention body.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: strike ~~and reported~~ and replace with **[who reports the results]**

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 2. Elections. Elections by Convention shall be held on the morning of the second day beginning at 11:00 a.m. The state Elections Committee shall conduct the election and be responsible for coordinating the voting process. Paper ballots shall be used for all elections (contested or not). The Elections Committee shall gather the ballots and along with the Parliamentary Advisor, count the votes. Results of votes shall be given to the state President who reports the results to the convention body.

RATIONALE: To clarify who reports the election results.

8. CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 4. No more than four members of the Executive Committee may come from the same district where their clubs are located.

2026 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: After Executive Committee, insert **[excluding the Director of Junior Clubs]**

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE XI NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES

Section 4. No more than four members of the Executive Committee, excluding the Director of Junior Clubs, may come from the same district where their clubs are located.

RATIONALE: To update. There are not as many junior members eligible to serve as Director and a candidate should not be excluded based on their district.



Memorial Service During Convention

Reminder

Each year during our GFWC-South Carolina Convention, we set aside time to honor and remember GFWC-SC “Sisters” who died during the previous year. Our Memorial Service will be on Saturday Morning, April 18 at the conclusion of our Business Session.

Please send our GFWC-SC Chaplain, Susan Lee, the names of any Club members who died since our last convention by April 1, 2026. Please list the deceased members name, and brief information about the deceased member (number of years she was a member of the club, honors she received, offices held, committees or projects that were special to her, etc.) email susank311@outlook.com.

Inspiration

There’s something powerful about the moment new officers are elected or leadership shifts.

It’s more than a change in titles – it’s a signal of trust. Trust in fresh perspective. Trust in steady hands. Trust in the future of the organization.

Leadership transitions remind us that no role is owned; it’s stewarded. Each person brings new energy, different strengths, and a unique lens. That infusion can reignite purpose, sharpen focus, and challenge us to grow in ways we didn’t anticipate.

Change in leadership isn’t a disruption – it’s renewal. The most resilient organizations aren’t the ones that avoid change. They’re the ones that embrace it with gratitude for what has been and optimism for what’s ahead.

New officers mean new opportunity. As our current leaders prepare for the changing of the guard, let’s celebrate them and the accomplishments of the last two years. We are grateful for their stewardship of our amazing State Federation and for all of the women who continue to lead with grace and vision.

Susan Lee, GFWC South Carolina Chaplain

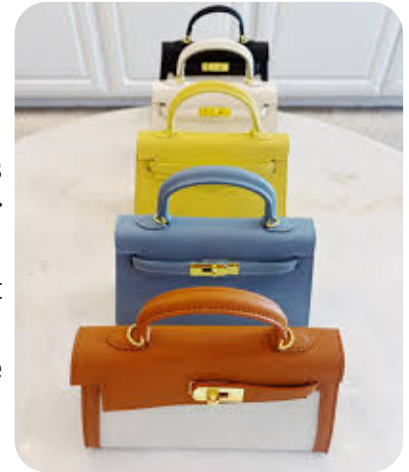
PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL FUND BASKET AUCTION



Clubs, we do hope you'll remember the Basket Auction Fundraiser which benefits the president's travel fund. This year's auction proceeds will be split between the outgoing and incoming president. Please consider donating a basket. The baskets will be on display beginning Saturday morning and winners will be announced Saturday evening. And please don't forget to include a list of items included in your basket, its approximate value, and your club's name.

JUNIOR DIRECTOR LIVE PURSE AUCTION

The annual purse/tote auction benefitting the Junior Director's Travel Fund will be held Friday evening, April 17, after dinner. Junior Clubs, Junior members and others are encouraged to donate a bag. Bags may be new or very gently used. Purses may be dropped off at the registration desk on Friday and before dinner Friday evening. This live auction is always a highlight of Friday's activities. So be sure to bring some extra funds or your checkbook for bidding!



HONOR ROLL & ORDER OF THE JESSAMINE

With a \$25 donation to GFWC-SC, you can honor a special clubwoman in your life. Perhaps a mentor or a friend who brought you into the Federation. Honorees will be presented with a special certificate during Convention Saturday evening, and their name will be listed in the convention program and the June edition of Clubwoman magazine. [Click here to download the Honor Roll Form.](#)

With a \$50 donation to GFWC-SC, your CLUB can honor one special clubwoman who your club feels has done an exemplary job, provided years of service, or has made a special contribution to the club with an appointment to the Order of the Jessamine. Honorees will be presented with a special certificate during Convention Saturday evening, and their name will be listed in the the June edition of Clubwoman magazine. [Click here to download the Order of the Jessamine.](#)



128TH ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION

CONVENTION ATTIRE

The Coastal District welcomes you to Myrtle Beach at our Friday opening ceremonies and luncheon. The overall theme of this year's convention is Celebrate Freedom and America's 250th anniversary.

Friday morning dress will be business attire (dress, skirts, slacks). During Friday's business meeting, we will distribute awards and have a speaker from Sea Haven for Youth. **Friday Evening we will have fun with our Juniors and our theme will be The Colors of Freedom~A Star Spangled Evening. Dress will be 'coastal cocktail', so sundresses, or casual cocktail attire. Members are asked to dress in the colors of our American Flag by district: Coastal in White, Midlands in Blue and Upstate in Red.** Members are encouraged to use their creativity in expanding upon the theme with jewelry, accessories or even costumes! This will make for a beautiful group photo. Dinner will be an 'American Picnic Buffet' and afterwards, we'll have awards, followed by the ever popular and entertaining Junior Purse Auction. So bring cash or your checkbook!

Saturday Morning is business casual or GFWC-SC/GFWC/Club Attire. This is an opportunity for your club members to dress alike or to wear your favorite GFWC attire. The Saturday morning business meeting will include awards, election of officers for the 2026-2028 administration, confirmation of GFWC-SC District Elections and Boards, proposed changes to the Bylaws, and Resolutions. We will view a video presentation from the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation.

A **Memorial Service** will be held at the conclusion of our business session on Saturday morning, honoring GFWC-SC members who have passed away between May 2025-April 2026. Each District President will participate by lighting a candle for each member of her district lost over the past year. The service will be led by Chaplain, Susan Lee.

The convention will stand in recess and Districts will have the chance to meet, conduct business and hand out district awards. Afterwards ... Plan to spend your afternoon at a fun lunch spot or shopping at the local outlets or even at the beach!

Saturday Evening we will end our convention in formal attire as our **United We Shine Installation Celebration** (*no specified colors*) celebrates our outgoing Executive Officers and installation of the new 2026-2028 Administration. GFWC President-elect, Wendy Carriker, will give the keynote address. There will be more awards and special recognitions. We will announce our Volunteer of the Year, our Woman of Distinction and, once again, celebrate our GFWC-SC Jennie nominee. Winners of the Presidents Travel Fund Basket Raffle will be announced, and the evening will end with a reception hosted by St. Andrews Woman's Club, honoring our newly installed 2026-2028 officers.

SPEAKERS | We are excited to have two very special speakers and an exciting video presentation this year.

Friday | Sea Haven for Youth Sea Haven is Horry County's only youth crises service provider. It provides emergency stabilization services by offering temporary emergency shelter, food, clothing, individual and family counseling, case management, referrals for extended services, independent/permanent housing, permanency planning and aftercare. Sea Haven is the Safe Place agency of Horry County. <https://www.seahavenyouth.org>

SATURDAY'S Business Session | The Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation will be presenting via a Video, informing us about the plans for the first and only national monument on the Washington, D.C. mall dedicated to women.

Saturday Evening | Our keynote speaker will be GFWC International President-elect, Wendy Carriker.

THE CALL TO THE 128TH ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION

APRIL 16 - 19, 2026

THE MARINA INN AT GRAND DUNES

8121 AMALIFI PLACE, MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29572

HOST DISTRICT | Coastal District

CONVENTION CHAIRMEN | Jeri McCumbee, Janet Prince & Dolly Montgomery

Welcome to Myrtle Beach! The General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina will hold its 128th Annual Convention at the Marina Inn at Grand Dunes, Myrtle Beach, SC April 16-19. The theme for this year's convention is **America~250 Years of Freedom!** We are excited to be hosting our special guest, GFWC International President-elect, Wendy Carriker. ALL clubwomen are invited and encouraged to attend to celebrate America 250! and to recognize our outstanding clubwomen, celebrate a successful year of community service, congratulate the outgoing administration and welcome the new 2026-2028 administration.

Room Reservation Deadline for the Convention Block at the Marina Inn at Grand Dunes with our special group rate for sleeping rooms is March 24.

To call for reservations: (843) 913-1333 or (877) 913-1333 and ask for the General Federation of Women's Clubs room block April 16-19, 2026.

You may book your room online by using this **Reservation Link:** <http://marinainnatgrandedunes.com/> and clicking on Group Reservations (Scroll to the very bottom and it is on the right hand side.) **Use Group Code & Password "WOMEN26"**

PLEASE NOTE | This link is for sleeping rooms only! The total cost per night with all taxes and fees included: 2 Queens or 1 King \$206.62; 2 Bedroom/2 Bath Suite (2 Queen Beds, 1 King Bed, Sleeper Sna) \$297.62. For more information on the hotel and amenities: <https://marinainnatgrandedunes.com> or call 1-866-437-4113

Advance Registration and Meal Reservations Required!

Guests do not pay a registration fee but must register as a guest to purchase a meal(s).

April 10 is the deadline for Registration and Meal Reservations. Registrations are through Zeffy:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/gfwc-sc-128th-convention>

The advance registration fee is \$25 per person. Late registration after March 31 is \$40 per person. The link can also be found on the GFWC-SC Website. <https://gfwc-sc.org>

A confirmation email will be sent to you once you register. Due to limited capacity and current food limitations, we are unable to accept walk-ins for meals. Please register early and before April 1 to ensure your early registration.

SERVICE PROJECT

We will have a hands-on service project benefitting Sea Haven for Youth. For questions or more information, contact czim22@gmail.com.



THE CALL TO THE 128TH ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION

2026 PRELIMINARY AGENDA

(Minor changes to this agenda may be made to accommodate time restrictions or other changes. The final agenda will be included in the convention program.)

Thursday, April 16, 2026

- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Early Registration
4:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Past President's Dinner with Officers and Special Guests – WaterScapes Restaurant, The Marina Inn at Grand Dunes

Friday, April 17, 2026

- 9:15a.m. Registration Opens
9:45 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 a.m. Convention in Session
11:00 a.m. Opening of Convention
Speaker Sea Haven for Youth Service Project
12:00 p.m. Leading with Liberty Welcome Luncheon (dress is Business Casual)
Wendy Carriker, GFWC International President-elect, special guest
AWARDS Community Service, Advancement Area & other Awards
6:00 p.m. Reception/Social time - Cash Bar, pre-function area (dress is business 'coastal' casual. Members are asked to dress in the colors of the American Flag by District: Coastal – White; Midlands – Blue; Upstate – Red)
7:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet - The Colors of Freedom~A Star-Spangled Evening
Entertainment
JUNIOR CELEBRATION
AWARDS Director of Junior Special Project Awards, Junior Awards
Creative Arts Awards, President's Special Project Awards
Convention stands in recess
Junior Purse Auction

Saturday, April 18, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Waves of Grain Breakfast | Muffins, pastries, bagel, coffee/tea
9:30 a.m. Convention in Session (GFWC/GFWC-SC/Club Attire, dress alike as a club or business casual)
Bylaws Committee Report and Vote
Resolutions Committee Report and Vote
Video Presentation: National Women's Suffrage Memorial Foundation
11:00 Business Meeting
Confirmations of State & District Elections
Reports from GFWC-SC Board of Trustees
Awards Standing Committee Reports | District Presidents | GFWC-SC Officer Reports
Memorial Service
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention stands in recess
Free afternoon for lunch, shopping and beach

District Meetings & Awards

THE CALL TO THE 128TH ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION 2026 PRELIMINARY AGENDA (continued)

Saturday Evening, April 18, 2026

6:00 p.m. Reception/Social Hour-Cash Bar | Pre-function area
7:00 p.m. Dinner | United We Shine Installation Celebration Dinner (Formal attire)

Entertainment

Keynote Speaker Wendy Carriker, GFWC International President-elect

AWARDS Outstanding Club Awards| CIP Award
Recognition of 2026 Honor Roll | Recognition of 2026 Order of the Jessamine
GFWC-SC Volunteer of the Year | GFWC-SC Woman of Distinction | Recognition
of GFWC-SC Jennie Award winner
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs Final Remarks
GFWC-SC President's Final Remarks
Installation of 2026-2028 Officers
Invitation to 2027 Annual Convention| Midlands District
Winners of the President's Basket Raffle

Adjournment of 128th GFWC-SC Convention

Reception in Honor of the 2026-2028 Officers

Sunday Morning, April 19

9:00 a.m. 2026-2028 Administration Executive Committee Meeting

9:30 a.m. 2026-2028 Administration Board of Directors Meeting

Convention Menu Information

Friday Opening Session *Leading with Liberty Lunch Buffet* | Price: \$25 Member/Non-member \$28.57
Soup, Salad, Chicken/Tuna/Egg Salad, Mini Rolls, Chips, Cookies, Iced Tea & Water

Friday Evening *Colors of Freedom~Star Spangled Evening Dinner Buffet*| Price \$48 Member/Non-member \$51.35

Grilled Chicken Breast, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Baked Beans, Rolls & Butter, Fruit Cobbler, Tea, Coffee, Water

Saturday Morning *Waves of Grain Breakfast* | Price \$20 Member/Non-member \$24.49

Pastries/Muffins, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea

Saturday Evening *United We Shine Installation Celebration Dinner*| Price \$65 Member/Non-Member \$72.10

Choice of Flank Steak or Salmon, Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, Chef's Dessert, Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, Water

You will be able to note your choice for Saturday Night Dinner on Zeffy when you register for Convention. You will also be able to list any allergies or food restrictions. Please note if you need a vegetarian/special meal for dinner on Friday or Saturday night, so that the kitchen will be prepared. Questions? Contact Courtney Evans cepevans@hotmail.com



DATES TO REMEMBER

March ~ Women's History Month

March 8 ~ International Women's Day & Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day

March 20 ~ First Day of SPRING

March 26 ~ GFWC-SC Legislation Day

April 5 ~ Easter Sunday

April 17~19 ~ GFWC-SC 128th Convention

April 24 ~ GFWC Federation Day

May 10 ~ Mother's Day

May 25 ~ Memorial Day

Earthsong

Our ancient sky shimmers red near dawn,
An iridescent sentinel of unfurled wonder.
Dew crystals crest, awakening life,
Sprouting warm grass, budding furry blooms.
Nest music chatters, choruses ring from tree to tree,
Pulsing joy, hunger, greetings, delight.
Our land lifts to its blue ceiling, heavy with scent,
Touching lichen clouds, curled like kittens.
Calm wild rhythm, unending stanzas hold the notes.

Janet R. Smalley, GFWC SC Poet Laureate

