GFWC South Carolina

CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

Celebrating 365 DAYS OF



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2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents

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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

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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

Our January weather certainly made our Winter Session interesting! Members embraced the virtual ZOOM meeting format and the 80 members in attendance seemed to enjoy the intimacy of seeing and hearing each other 'up close and personal' through our screens. In fact, the Zoom meeting format itself was so well received we may try it again for Winter Session 2026. Our speaker, Amanda Whittle, State Child Advocate, South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, shared a wealth of interesting information and statistics. 2nd Vice President Carrie Zimmerman conducted a reporting workshop and, again, members appreciated receiving the information in a format that seemed to be speaking directly to them. Speaking of reporting, thank you



to the 6 Junior and 22 General Clubs that submitted reports. Reporting can be challenging, but it is so important to document the good work our clubs do each year. I hope clubs will utilize the information in the reports and share with their members. Seeing all the work documented in one place can be inspiring to club members and can even be used with prospective members in an exhibit at a membership event.

I'm happy to say that our state LEADS Seminar, 'Back to the Basics' was a resounding success. So much so, that we're offering a half-day LEADS seminar the day prior to Summer Session in August. 29 club members from across the state attended - our largest attendance yet: 24 of those were first-time attendees. We enjoyed having GFWC 2nd Vice President Mary Beth Williams join us and share her presentation, 'On the Leadership Trail.'

And for those of you who did not attend, you missed a true highlight: Past Presidents Norma England and Kristin Field's Tony award-worthy presentation of the 'Bossy Leader' skit. We hope you'll join us for our mini-leads in August. Look for more about that from Chairman Janet Prince in this issue.

Finally, although the weather can still be erratic, daffodils, hyacinths and flowering trees have begun to shout, 'It's Spring!' Daylight Savings Time will bring with it longer daylight hours. It's difficult to believe it's been almost one year since I introduced the administration's theme of, 'Be Someone's Sunshine.' I do hope to see many of you in Rock Hill at our 127th GFWC-SC Convention, where we will be celebrating the sunshine our clubs have brought into the lives of so many.

I look forward to seeing you April 25-27 in Rock Hill as we celebrate '365 Days of Sunshine.'

In Federation Love,

uzanne

Suzanne Carswell GFWC-SC President







Hello, GFWC Sisters!

Spring is finally here, bringing with it beautiful blooms and longer days ahead. With more daylight hours, we have even more opportunities to step outside, enjoy the sunshine, and spend less time on screens.

It has been so rewarding to read your reports and see all the hard work you've put in paying off. I truly appreciate everything you do. I hope you'll join me at the upcoming convention in Rock Hill, where we'll celebrate our

accomplishments and honor the clubs that have gone above and beyond in 2024. I can't wait to see which clubs will be recognized as blue flames, sparks, or embers!

We will also be holding our Junior Fun Night purse auction, so come prepared with a shopping spirit and a bag or two to contribute!

A special congratulations goes out to two South Carolina juniors, Kylene Turpin from the Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray and Mykita Levy from the Junior Women's Club of Columbia, who attended their very first LEADS conference. What an exciting milestone!

Lastly, the Junior Board will be meeting on March 8 at 10 a.m. at Chandeliers in the Vista. I hope to see many of our Junior clubwomen there to continue strengthening our amazing network.

In Junior Love,

Michollo

Michelle Blackmon GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs









Welcome to Spring...well, almost! I've enjoyed a little snow and now I'm ready for winter to go away! In my last article, I mentioned I was going through a total kitchen remodel right before Christmas and that it was promised it would be ready by then. Well, it was! It was down to the wire, but I did have a working kitchen for Christmas. Phew...that was a lot of stress, but I survived.

As we move into spring, it is a great time for your club members to review your club's by-laws, projects, fundraisers, new member recruitment, etc. Club and club dynamics change, and you need to look at how your club is set up and determine if it still works NOW. If not, work with each other to find the best way to go forward. Change your by-laws, look for new projects and fundraisers, brainstorm ways to get new members in your club. It's very easy to keep doing things the way we always have but get out of your comfort zone and embrace some change!



GFWC-SC **First Vice President**

I hope you are all enjoying Here Comes the Sun News and Notes. If you have a project or fundraiser you would like to let others in the SC Federation know about, send me the information and I will get it in the next edition. The last one came out in mid-February, and I plan to send it out every other month.

If you have any membership questions or recruiting opportunities, please contact me and I will help in any way I can.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Convention!

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Jones GFWC-SC First Vice President

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS!!!!

Please make sure you complete the **2024-2026 Membership Recruitment Fillable Form** each quarter. This form needs to be emailed to GFWC so that your new members are added to the rosters, and they get communications from GFWC.

It's not hard to find but you do need to be a member of GFWC.org. Once you have logged in there, follow this path:

Digital Library Search for 'Membership' Look for '2024-2026 Membership Recruitment Fillable Form'

Save this form to your computer and fill it in each quarter. The deadlines are October 1, January 2, April 1, and July 1. Email this to <u>GFWC@GFWC.org</u> and copy Kaye Jones, 1st VP at <u>clemsongirlkaye@aol.com</u>.

If you have NOT sent your list of new members to GFWC in October or January, it is NOT too late! Go ahead and complete the information requested and send it in now!

Please don't forget to send this information to GFWC and if you can't find the form, contact me and I will be glad to email it to you!

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS! MEMBER ANNIVERSARY PINS

We would love to honor your members attaining milestone anniversaries of 25 years or over (in 5 year increments) at our convention in April. Please contact Kaye Jones, First Vice President/ 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. The 50-year and 75- year pins require a special form that I must send in so email Kaye at <u>clemsongirlkaye@aol.com</u> with orders or questions by March 20.

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Jones GFWC-SC First Vice President



If you have been in GFWC-SC for a few years, you have heard about reporting, but what is reporting? Reporting is a way for each club to capture all of the good, joy, helpfulness and happiness that your club has provided to your Community and others! Many of our Clubs took advantage of this opportunity to showcase their programs from 2024.

Extending a lot of gratitude to our program chairs for judging these reports and to all of the Clubwomen who took the time to complete reporting for their clubs.

State and District reports are due March 15 and we continue to encourage clubs to submit for these. Information on March 15 reporting can be found in the December 2024 Clubwoman.



Second Vice President

Some highlighted awards coming up include the GFWC-SC Writing and Photography contests, Volunteer of the Year, Woman of Distinction, Honor Roll, and Order of the Jessamine, to just name a few. Acknowledge those club members who exemplify this criterion and give them a shout out!

This officer is looking forward to attending some club events around the State, GFWC-SC State convention in April 2025 and the GFWC International Convention in "Hot 'Lanta", June 2025. Thank you for allowing this officer to serve as your 2nd Vice President, it continues to be fulfilling and educational.

In Federation Love,

Barrie

Carrie Zimmerman GFWC-SC Second Vice President

REPORTING REMINDERS!

HONOR ROLL AND ORDER OF THE JESSAMINE: With a \$25 donation to GFWC-SC, you can honor a special clubwoman to be on the Honor Roll. Honorees will be listed in the convention program. They will also be recognized and receive a certificate during our GFWC-SC Convention. With a \$50 donation to GFWC-SC, your club can honor one member of your club with election to the Order of the Jessamine. The honoree will be recognized at the convention with a certificate and featured in the June Clubwoman Magazine. Make checks payable to GFWC-SC and send to Mendy Haver, Treasurer, 334 Neely Crossing Lane, Simpsonville, SC 29680, mhaver300@yahoo.com Due April 1, 2025. All proceeds benefit the GFWC-SC General Fund. The updated forms are on the GFWC-SC website.

<u>GFWC-SC SCRAPBOOK CONTEST</u>: Shutterfly, Mixbook or other digital printed scrapbook .E entries should be brought to GFWC-SC Convention to the designated area by noon on Friday of Convention, April 25, 2025. Each entry must be registered with the 2024 Scrapbook Chairman, Elizabeth Renneker.

NEWSLETTER CONTEST: Email to: DeAna Reed Sharpe, <u>Deana.reed@yahoo.com.</u>

WEBSITE CONTEST: Email entry to Website Contest Chair, DeAna Reed Sharpe, <u>Deana.reed@</u> <u>yahoo.com</u>.

YOUTH WRITING AND ALL GFWC & GFWC-SC WRITING CONTESTS: Submit all entries for Clubwoman Writing Contests to GFWC-SC Contest Chair, Jackie Boland, 7 Cherry Lane, West Columbia, SC 29170 QUESTIONS: jackieboland@hotmail.com, 803-422-2908.

****** New Due Date: April 21, 2025 ******

<u>GFWC & GFWC-SC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST (Digital)</u>: Please refer to contest specifics at GFWC.org in the Club Manual. For questions, contact Photography Contest Chair, Dianne Noda, diannenoda@gmail.com

Submit all Photography Award entries to GFWC-SC Photography Chairman Dianne Noda <u>diannenoda@gmail.com</u> by April 21. **Photographs are to be submitted digitally.**



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 <u>khunke@aol.com</u>.

Looking forward to seeing you in Rock Hill in April.

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Hunke GFWC-SC Secretary



10M Secretary



Happy Winter, everyone! I don't know about you, but I am finished with this cold, rainy weather. I'm ready for springtime, warmer weather, and flip flops!!

Thank you to all the clubs who sent their dues and their member rosters in to me.

Please remember to file your taxes, Secretary of State Raffle, and Secretary of State registration no later than 3 ½ months after your club year ends. For those clubs who operate on a calendar year, these items are due April 15 (tax day!).

Treasurer

It is also time to send in your Club Contribution sheet by March 15. These donations help to fund scholarships, our Headquarters in Columbia, the Progress Foundation, the Disaster Relief Fund, and many other programs in our state. You can find the Club Contributions form at: <u>https://gfwc-sc.org/gfwc-sc-information</u>

I look forward to seeing everyone in Rock Hill for our fabulous state convention!

In Federation Love,

Mendy

Mendy Haver GFWC-SC Treasurer

GFWC SCLEADS

Because LEADS was so well received, we are considering holding a 'Mini-LEADS Seminar' the day before our Summer Session Meeting. The cost for this half-day August 8th session would be \$20 and it would be held at our GFWC-SC Headquarters. We would be presenting the same information as we did in our February LEADS but in an expedited format so as to fit all information into a half-day, and wanted to offer it to those that could not attend in February. If you think you would be interested, please contact Janet Prince at jhprince@aol.com.

I look forward to another successful LEADS session!

Janet Prince 2024-2026 LEADS Chairman



eadership

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Janet Prince, GFWC-SC LEADS Chairman, 2024-2026 for a WONDERFUL GFWC-SC LEADS Seminar on February 8, 2025. Janet and the 2025 LEADS Committee presented an outstanding program. Presentations on various aspects and topics pertaining to leadership, GFWC, and GFWC-SC were given by Katie Moydell, Shelli Pue Michelle Blackmon, Jackie Boland, Sylvia Ayers, Janet Prince, Kaye Jones, Caroline Mahaffey, Laurie O'Kelly, Kristin Fields, Norma England and GFWC Second Vice President, Mary Beth Williams. The 29 LEADS attendees were also terrific! I also want to thank the Woman's Club of Cayce for letting us use their clubhouse and Shelli Pue for our lunch from Rebel Dogs. It was a great day filled with learning and fellowship.

I wanted to share with you a part of the presentation that Kristin Fields and I did regarding an overbearing leader. This information came from a past GFWC News & Notes.

Speaking of Leadership ... I hope to see all of you at our GFWC-SC Convention in Rock Hill!

Norma England

2024-2026 GFWC-SC Leadership Chairman

Do You Have An Over Bearing Leader in Your Club? By Suzanne Simmons, GFWC Leadership Committee

Do you have a president who doesn't delegate? Do you know a chairman who micromanages? Have you ever met someone you can't please no matter what? We all have. The trick is to figure out how to work with them. The GFWC Leadership Committee is ready with ideas to help.

Step #1: Approach with empathy.

• Start a conversation expressing appreciation for her hard work. This may make her open to hearing your concerns.

Step #2: Engage her by asking for guidance and clarity of expectations.

- Empower her by showing you want to learn under her mentorship. **Step #3: Is it me?**
- Evaluate your behavior. Are you part of the problem?

Step #4: Offer to develop job descriptions and form a committee to help.

• Defined roles allow others to take on leadership tasks in a controlled, organized manner.

Step #5: Suggest assisting with smaller aspects to build trust.

• Show you are reliable, meet deadlines, and stay on task.

Step #6: Discuss the benefits of shared leadership.

• Emphasize how empowering others benefits the club. Frame the idea as a way to strengthen the club and provide future leaders.

Always maintain your professionalism. Never lose your cool.

If the issue cannot be resolved it may be necessary to contact a GFWC Mediator. Mediators have the experience and knowledge to help you work through any situation. Contact Membership Director Melanie Gisler at 202-347-3172 or <u>MGisler@gfwc.org</u> for more information. All information shared is confidential.





GFWC-SC State House Day Thursday, March 13, 2025 9:15 am

- **T** If you are attending, **please complete the form in the link below**.
- Address 1100 Gervais St., Columbia, SC 29208. Please plan to arrive early enough to find parking. There is no reserved parking!
- ★ We will meet at the front/North/Gervais St. steps.
- ★ We will go through security and be ready to go upstairs as soon as the doors to the Gallery open to make certain everyone gets a seat.
- ★ After we are introduced, we will get a few group pictures and meet with your Senator and Representative if they are available. You may also want to visit the gift shop.
- **Deadline to respond is Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at noon**. Email Peggy Aun at <u>aunthemove@gmail.com.</u>

Attire - Professional. Do not forget to wear your name tag!

Wear shoes you can walk and stand in comfortably.

Lunch - We will be going to Rebel Dogs at the corner of Gervais St. & Huger St. Owned and operated by Junior Woman's Club of Columbia member, Shelli Pue.

Last year for Federation Day 2022-2024, GFWC-SC Leadership Chairman Susan Lee and 2022-2024 GFWC Communications and Public Relations Chairman Tracy Morzuch created a virtual celebration, consisting of 26 videos of GFWC-SC sisters sharing their experiences through their involvement with GFWC. Our 26 participants represented every level of GFWC: International leaders, State leaders, District leaders, General membership, and Junior membership.

GFWC SC Federation Bay

April 24, 2025

Former GFWC-SC President Norma England and Former President - Elect Suzanne Carswell received many positive messages about our 2024 Federation Day Celebration. It was a delight to witness the kind comments during the days that followed. In that same vein, we are planning our 2025 GFWC-SC Federation Day Celebration.

Like last year, it will be virtual. The videos will be shown via social media on Federation Day, April 24, 2025.

THE IDEA:

Each GFWC-SC Club will make a video about their club.

- Suggested topics, but not limited to:
 - o Club dates
 - o Location of club
 - o What impact your club has had on your community
 - o What fundraiser or mission is your club known for
- 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 may be submitted by the club president or other club leader. The message in the video may be delivered by 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 Tracy Morzuch, Communications and Public Relations Chairman, for assistance no later than March 15, 2025 at <u>communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com</u>.

Videos are due to Tracy Morzuch, Communication and Public Relations Chairman by April 1, 2025 at <u>communications.gfwcsc@gmail.com</u>.

Thank you!

Norma England GFWC-SC Leadership Chairman 2024- 2026

Gracy Morzuch

GFWC-SC Communications and Public Relations Chairman 2024 - 2026

Anne Redlus, Chairman

Jennie (Iward

Just a reminder to Club Presidents that your club's deadline for submitting a nominee for the 2024-2026 Jennie Award is June 1, 2025. The club's nomination packet is to be mailed to Anne Redlus at 712 Freshwater Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909 by that date. Please refer back to the GFWC-SC December Clubwoman, page 25 for all the details on the nomination and supporting documents. Also, you can find all of the contest details on pages 212-216 in the GFWC Club Manual (GFWC. org).

If you are planning on nominating a member, would you please email that information to <u>anneredlus@gmail.com</u>. I have not heard from any club to date and I can't believe that South Carolina would miss out on participating in this special award during this administration. We have many deserving clubwomen in this state that could be recognized. I am here to assist in any way that I can.



GFWC-SC Resolutions Committee

GUN SAFETY RESOLUTION Submitted by GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention states that guns are the leading cause of death in the US for those under the age of 20; and

WHEREAS, Firearms stored at home are attributed to higher rates of homicide and suicide among household members; and

WHEREAS, the US Secret Service has reported that 75% of mass school shooters have obtained their weapon from the home of a parent or family relative; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that secure firearm storage is associated with lower risk for firearm injuries; therefore

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over half of gun owners do not securely lock all of their guns; and

RESOLVED that General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Advocate for and recommend that firearms be stored locked and unloaded, and stored separate from locked ammunition, within the homes of their community.
- Partner with gun retailers and their local community to assist with communication campaigns, distribution of storage devices, firearm safety training and demonstrations, and safe storage maps.
- Encourage legislation that centers around the safe storage of firearms, including child-access prevention laws and laws that require firearms to be safely stored, or sold with storage devices.

GFWC 2025 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

2025 GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE TO SPOTLIGHT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE — Saturday, September 27

As you begin to think about and plan your club's community service project for the **2025 GFWC International Day of Service**,

remember you can focus on any area of domestic and sexual violence. You know the needs of your community better than anyone. To help get you started with your discussions and planning, here are the eight areas your club might consider, along with a suggested activity and resource:

BECOME A CHAMPION: BE THE VOICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE.

	Focus Area	Suggested Activity	Resource
•	Campus Sexual	Contact a campus in your	National Sexual Violence Resource
	Assault	community and see what support	Center (NSVRC) <u>www.nsvrc.org</u>
		you can provide to survivors.	
•	Child Abuse	Collect teddy bears to give to	Prevent Child Abuse America
		children at a child advocacy center	www.preventchildabuse.org
		following abuse.	
•	Elder Abuse	Develop a public awareness	National Center on Elder Abuse
		campaign, and host an Elder Abuse	(NCEA) <u>www.ncea.gov</u>
		Awareness Day!	
•	Human Trafficking for	Collaborate with an organization in	SC Human Trafficking Taskforce
	Sexual Purposes	your community advocating against	website for resources and ideas at:
		sex trafficking.	https://www.scag.gov/human-
			trafficking/
•	Intimate Partner	Work with a local shelter or support	National Domestic Violence Hotline
	Violence	a group offering victim-centered	www.thehotline.org; 1-800-799-
		services in your area	7233
•	Military Sexual Assault	Contact a local veteran's group and	Protect Our Defenders Foundation
		raise awareness at an event with an	www.protectourdefenders.com
		information table	
•	Teen Dating Violence	Sponsor an art contest at your local	Safe Place
		middle, high schools about healthy	www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-
		relationships/dating abuse/domestic	dating-violence
		violence and have the winning entry	
		made into a poster to distribute.	
•	Violence Against Native	Research disparities in health care	The National Congress of American
	American Women	access for these women in your	Indians <u>https://ncai.org</u>
		community	

Also, the 2024-2026 GFWC Signature Program Committee published a wealth of information in the 2024-2026 Club Manual, pages 13-35 that will provide you with additional ideas and resources. Be sure to watch for more information and project ideas online at <u>www.GFWC.org</u> and posted in the Digital Library.



2024-2026 GFWC-SC Signature Program Chairman, Connie Lawson cslawsonusa@aol.com

shot@life

By the time you are reading this, I will have attended the Shot@Life Summit in Washington, DC. Shot@ Life has been a GFWC affiliate for 12 years. Measles kill more than 136,000 people, mostly unvaccinated children, each year. Global measles cases doubled between 2021 and 2022. We can held reduce this number with contributions to provide measles vaccines to children worldwide. The goal for GFWC is to raise \$80,000 from Clubwomen during the 2024-2026 administration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding Health and Wellness CSP. Be Healthy and Stay Well.

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



It's your Measles Mission update!

Measles is an extremely contagious and even life-threatening disease, but thankfully, **just \$5** can help provide a child with the shots they need to be protected for life. Thanks to the amazing efforts of GFWC clubs over the past five months, we've collectively helped protect over **800 children with lifesaving measles vaccines** through GFWC's Measles Mission.

Special shoutout to our top state teams—Washington, Colorado, and Arizona—and fundraisers—Susan Tyler, Dianne Maki-Sethi, and Deanna Shepard—who've dedicated their efforts to supporting the mission.

There's still much work to be done as measles surges worldwide. Global cases **increased by 20% in 2023**, but **you** can be a part of the solution by supporting Shot@Life and GFWC's work to help protect 80,000 children against measles. How can you help?

- 1. Donate as an individual/to your state team through our online fundraising hub;
- 2. Join/fundraise for a state team;
- 3. Spread the word to your club (and potentially incorporate the Measles Mission into your Giving Tuesday plans).

You can learn more about all of these options and start fundraising today by visiting <u>shotatlife.org/</u><u>gfwc-measles</u>. If you are looking for more information to bring to your club, please let us know, and we can email you a one-pager to help spread the word. We appreciate your work so far to help reach children around the world with lifesaving measles vaccines.

President's Special Project - Preserve On Birds

Getting your yard ready for birds in the spring in South Carolina means providing food, water, shelter, and nesting opportunities. Here's how to attract a variety of birds while creating a safe and inviting space for them:

1. Clean and Maintain Bird Feeders

• Wash and disinfect feeders with a 10% bleach solution, then rinse thoroughly.

• Stock up on seeds (sunflower, nyjer, safflower), suet, and nectar for early migrants like Hummingbirds.

• Use different feeders (tube, platform, suet cages) to attract various species.

2. Provide Fresh Water

· Clean birdbaths and refill with fresh water.

• Add a dripper or fountain to keep the water moving, which attracts birds and prevents mosquito breeding.

3. Create Nesting Opportunities

- Put up birdhouses designed for local species like bluebirds, chickadees, and wrens.
- · Leave dead trees (if safe) as natural nesting sites.
- Offer nesting materials like pet fur, small twigs, and grass clippings.

4. Landscape with Native Plants

• Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees like Carolina jessamine, wax myrtle, and red buckeye to provide food and shelter.

- Include berry-producing plants (e.g., holly, beautyberry) for natural food sources.
- Avoid pesticides, which can harm birds and insects they rely on for food.

5. Maintain a Safe Environment

- Keep cats indoors or use cat deterrents.
- Reduce window collisions by applying decals or using sheer curtains.
- Minimize bright outdoor lights at night to help migratory birds.

6. Watch for Early Migrants

• In South Carolina, watch for ruby-throated hummingbirds, purple martins, and warblers returning in early spring.

• Keep a bird journal or use apps like Merlin Bird ID to track visitors.

By making these small adjustments, your yard can become a thriving habitat for birds in the spring!

Kaye Gerrald

President's Special Project - Preserve Our Birds Chairman



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Communications and Public Relations

Happy Almost Spring!

I am looking forward to the weather warming up and enjoying those spring days, but more importantly, SUMMER! I thrive on the heat of the summer.

GFWC-South Carolina has several avenues in which we communicate to clubwomen. We have our website, our membership newsletter, Here Comes the Sun, the 4 times a year publication, the Clubwomen Magazine and lastly, social media.

Each publication and media has its value in purpose in communicating with our 42 clubs and 1100 members. We have accounts on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Threads. Please follow us on one or more of those accounts. Why, you ask? The fastest way to communicate information is via social media and, as most of our members have social media, the necessary information is shared quickly.

For example, we had to pivot our Winter Boards meeting to ZOOM due to weather. Emails were sent, but information was also communicated on social media to quickly alert members to be on the lookout for updated details. If you are not already, please follow us on your favorite social media platform!

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Threads accounts for GFWC-South Carolina

Facebook:	Instagram:	TikTok
 GFWC - South Carolina Gfwc-SC Upstate District Gfwc-SC Coastal District GFWC SC Midlands District Gfwc SC Juniors GFWC of South Carolina Headquarters 	 @gfwcsc @gfwcscmidlands @gfwcscjuniors1820 @gfwcscheadquarters 	@gfwcsc Threads
		@gfwcsc

In Federation Spirit,

Tracy Morzuch

Communications and Public Relations Chairman

2024-2026 CONSTITUTION & 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 2025

The following are proposed changes to be presented for consideration at the 2025 GFWC-SC Annual Convention in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Proposed additions are noted in [bold text and surrounded by brackets]. Proposed deletions are noted in strikethrough text.

1) CURRENT CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the GFWC-SC shall consist of women's clubs and other associations whose work and purpose are germane to the object of the GFWC-SC. Each application for membership shall show that the organization requires no partisan political test for membership, that it is not a secret society and that it does not tolerate, either by practice or teaching, any violation of state or national laws.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the first sentence, strike and other associations.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the GFWC-SC shall consist of women's clubs whose work and purpose are germane to the object of the GFWC-SC. Each application for membership shall show that the organization requires no partisan political test for membership, that it is not a secret society and that it does not tolerate, either by practice or teaching, any violation of state or national laws.

RATIONALE: To update.

2) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE I- MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. Heritage membership is membership of a club which was a charter member of SCFWC or which has at least 90 percent (90%) of its members over age 65. This designation must come from the Membership Committee. Requests for designation as a Heritage Club shall be submitted to the District President to determine eligibility, on or before the district meeting. The District President shall forward the request to the Chairman of the Membership Committee (the First Vice President) no later than October 1. Eligibility of an established Heritage Club shall be reviewed biennially by the membership committee in the even-numbered years. Heritage membership does not qualify for Progress Foundation funds or the Scholarship Fund.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

In the third sentence strike District President and replace with [First Vice President.] and strike on or before the district meeting. The District President shall forward the request to the Chairman of the Membership Committee (the First Vice President) no later than October 1. Eligibility of an established Heritage Club shall be reviewed biennially by the membership committee in the even-numbered years. In the last sentence strike Progress Foundation funds or.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE I- MEMBERSHIP

Section 4. Heritage membership is membership of a club which was a charter member of SCFWC or which has at least 90 percent (90%) of its members over age 65. This designation must come from the Membership Committee. Requests for designation as a Heritage Club shall be submitted to the First Vice President. Heritage membership does not qualify for the Scholarship Fund.

RATIONALE: To Update and clarify. All South Carolina federated clubs that have paid their dues by November 1 are eligible to apply for funds from Progress Foundation.

3) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE I- MEMBERSHIP

Section 6. Affiliated membership is membership of a club whose membership body maintains current membership in another GFWC-SC club.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Strike Section 6. Affiliated membership is membership of a club whose membership body maintains current membership in another GFWC SC club.

IF ADOPTED, This section will be removed with subsequent sections re-numbered. Any other references to affiliated membership will also be deleted as editorial house-keeping.

RATIONALE: To Update. At one time there were county and or city federations that consisted of clubs within that geographic area. The last affiliate was the Charleston Federation of Women's Clubs which was dissolved.

4) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE I- MEMBERSHIP Section 7. Associate membership is membership of a non-GFWC organization.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Strike Section 7. Associate membership is membership of a non-GFWC organization.

IF ADOPTED, This section will be removed with subsequent sections re-numbered. Any other references to associate membership will also be deleted as editorial house-keeping.

RATIONALE: To Update.

5) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS

Section I. The State shall be geographically divided into three districts to be known initially as Coastal District, Midlands District, and Upstate District. Each new district may vote to keep the initial name as the permanent name of the District or members can vote to rename the District.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Strike the second sentence Each new district may vote to keep the initial name as the permanent name of the District or members can vote to rename the District.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS Section I. The State shall be geographically divided into three districts to be known initially as Coastal District, Midlands District, and Upstate District.

RATIONALE: To Update.

6) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS

Section 2. District officers. Each district shall elect three officers: president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer, who shall serve a two-year term. At least two of the three officers shall be a member of a different club in a different County within the district. The District Officers shall serve on the GFWC-SC Board of Directors. The District Presidents shall also serve on the GFWC-SC Program Council.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Strike At least two of the three officers shall be a member of a different club in a different County within the district and replace with [At least one of the three officers shall be a member of a different club within the district].

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS

Section 2. District officers. Each district shall elect three officers: president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer, who shall serve a two-year term. At least one of the three officers shall be a member of a different club within the district. The District Officers shall serve on the GFWC-SC Board of Directors. The District Presidents shall also serve on the GFWC-SC Program Council.

RATIONALE: To Reflect Current Practice. For example, the Coastal District only has 5 clubs, so that district has often had two officers from the same club.

7) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS

Section 4. Meetings. The districts shall meet at the Annual State Convention. The Districts may also meet at the Summer and Winter Board meetings. In addition, each district shall hold an annual district conference sometime after Summer Board and before Winter Board.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT: In the first sentence strike shall and replace with [may].

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE II- DISTRICTS

Section 4. Meetings. The districts may meet at the Annual State Convention. The Districts may also meet at the Summer and Winter Board meetings. In addition, each district shall hold an annual district conference sometime after Summer Board and before Winter Board.

RATIONALE: To Reflect Current Practice. With video-conferencing, districts can meet at anytime, and a mandatory meeting during the State Convention is no longer needed in order for the districts to conduct business.

8) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 1. Clubs whose membership consists of young women may be classified as Junior Clubs. Such clubs shall hold active membership in and shall participate in the regular program of the Federation.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

In the first sentence strike women and replace with [people]

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 1. Clubs whose membership consists of young people may be classified as Junior Clubs. Such clubs shall hold active membership in and shall participate in the regular program of the Federation.

RATIONALE: To Update and be gender neutral throughout the bylaws, making other necessary editorial changes if adopted.

9) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 3. The Director-elect of Junior Clubs shall be an active member in good standing of a junior club, who has been recommended by her club to the Junior Nominating Committee by

December 1 of the odd numbered years. She shall be endorsed by the Junior Nominating Committee and shall be voted on at a junior meeting prior to Convention held in even numbered years.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

In the first sentence strike Junior Nominating Committee by December 1 of the odd numbered years-and replace with [Director of Junior Clubs]. In the second sentence strike Junior Nominating Committee and replace with [Junior Board of Directors]

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 3. The Director-elect of Junior Clubs shall be an active member in good standing of a junior club, who has been recommended by her club to the Director of Junior Clubs by December 1 of the odd numbered years. She shall be endorsed by the Junior Board of Directors and shall be voted on at a junior meeting prior to Convention held in even numbered years.

RATIONALE: To Update and reflect current practice.

10) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 4. The Director-elect of Junior Clubs shall have no official duties. She shall be encouraged to attend Board of Directors meetings and all other GFWC-SC official meetings.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

In the first sentence strike have no official duties and replace with [assist the Director of Junior Clubs with her duties and serve in the absence of the Director of Junior Clubs]

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

ARTICLE III- JUNIOR CLUBS

Section 4. The Director-elect of Junior Clubs shall assist the Director of Junior Clubs with her duties and serve in the absence of the Director of Junior Clubs. She shall be encouraged to attend Board of Directors meetings and all other GFWC-SC official meetings.

RATIONALE: To Update.

11) CURRENT BYLAW:

ARTICLE VII- OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAM COUNCIL, AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Section 6. The Board of Trustees of GFWC-SC Progress Foundation shall consist of three members from each district and they shall be elected at the annual district conferences.

2025 PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

In the first sentence strike GFWC-SC and replace with [S.C.F.W.C.] and add a comma after district.

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: ARTICLE VII Section 6. The Board of Trustees of S.C.F.W.C Progress Foundation shall consist of three members from each district, and they shall be elected at the annual district conferences.

RATIONALE: To reflect the official name of the foundation.

GFWC-SC Women in Business Sponsor JEFF RICHARDSON COMPANY **Caroline Richardson Mahaffey** Broker in Charge P.O.Box 39 Simpsonville, SC 29681 Office: (864) 962-1750 RREALESTCM@aol.com Cell: (864) 430-6688 www.jeffrichardsoncompany.com omputer ervice _{LLC} onsulting Computer, Printing & Promotional Tonja Ivey Solutions Owner s tivey@cdcsllc.com 115-C Library Hill Lane 803.312.2369 Lexington, SC 29072 803.785.4242



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 25.

Please send to Norma England the names of any Club members who died since our last convention by April 1, 2025. 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 <u>englandn72@comporium.net</u> with Memorial Service in the Subject.











CALLING ALL CLUBS

Madam President Suzanne and Madam Director Michelle depend on the generosity of our clubs to help cover the cost of their travel commitments. The President's Basket Auction and Junior Bag Auction are the biggest annual fundraisers for this cause. If your

club is willing to donate to one (or both), please drop your submission off at the convention registration table.

Please provide the name of the club, items donated and value for each item.



Raffe Ticket Pricing Rollback and More!

Has today's economy got you down? Are you tired of eating ramen instead of ribeye? Do we have a deal for you! We are excited to share that fundraising opportunities will be more economical and efficient at GFWC-SC convention this year. We're rolling back time and giving you "good ole day" raffle ticket pricing; 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. AND for the first time, you will be able to prepurchase your tickets with your registration. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase on-site as well, never fear. We look forward to helping you pad your pockets!

Donations for both the President's Basket Raffle and the Junior Purse Auction can be dropped off at the registration desk. Proceeds from both will help Suzanne and Michelle fund travel expenses required to fulfill their duties. We appreciate your club's commitment to state leadership!

Katie Moydell & Allison McGee GFWC-SC Fundraising Chairs



SERVICE PROJECT: We will be donating personal care items to Safe Passage <u>https://safepassagesc.org</u> Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Child Abuse Shelter in Rock Hill. **ITEMS NEEDED:** Toiletries, Paper Products (toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, etc.), Pantry Items (non-perishable food items) and Feminine Care Products. Gift cards are always appreciated.







THE CALL TO THE 127th ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION April 24-27, 2025 Hilton Garden Inn Rock Hill 650 Tinsley Way, Rock Hill, SC 29730 Phone: (803) 325-2800

HOST DISTRICT: Upstate District Clubs and District President Donna Anderson wish to welcome you to 'The Rock'! The General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina will hold the 127th Annual Convention at Hilton Garden Inn Rock Hill, 650 Tinsley Way, Rock Hill, SC 29730 April 24-27, 2025. All clubwomen are invited and encouraged to attend to celebrate '365 Days of Sunshine', hear our speakers, enjoy the Friday evening 'Sunflower Soirée' social and recognize some of our outstanding clubwomen. We hope you'll participate in the ever-popular Junior Purse Auction, which benefits the Junior Director's travel fund, and the President's Basket Raffle, benefitting the President's Travel Fund, along with the 50/50 auctions.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: DEADLINE IS APRIL 3 (based on availability) for the Convention Block at the Hilton Garden Inn Rock Hill with our special group rate. Sleeping room reservations may be made by using this Reservation Link: <u>https://www.hilton.com/en/ book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=RKHRHGI&groupCode=900&arrivaldate=2025-04-24&departuredate=2025-04-27&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLI NKDIRECT</u>

(Please note: This link is for sleeping rooms only! To register for convention, please see instructions below.) Room rates begin at \$149 + tax and fees. NOTE: Rooms are equipped with Keurig coffee makers, so feel free to bring your favorite K-cups and coffee/tea accoutrements

CONVENTION REGISTRATION & MEALS: DEADLINE IS APRIL 11 for Advance Registration. The advance registration fee is \$25 per person. **Late registration will be available through APRIL 18 and** is \$40 per person. Registration and Meal Reservations will be made exclusively online through Zeffy. <u>https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/gfwc-sc-127th-convention</u>. The link may also be found on the GFWC-SC.org website. Registration is very simple and self-explanatory. Just make sure that prior to completing checkout, you adjust the donation percentage. Zeffy is totally funded by contributions and <u>your contribution is entirely</u> <u>optional</u>. You do NOT have to contribute, but YOU must actively choose not to contribute or to contribute a lesser amount.

Please register early and by April 11 if you wish to avoid the \$15 late registration fee. If you do not register and find you are able to attend after the registration cutoff date of April 18, please contact Credentials Chairman Courtney Evans at <u>cepevans@hotmail.com</u> or (803) 566-7042.

THE CALL TO THE 127th ANNUAL GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION April 24-27, 2025 Hilton Garden Inn Rock Hill 650 Tinsley Way, Rock Hill, SC 29730 Phone: (803) 325-2800

SPEAKERS: We are excited to have two very special speakers, focusing on two areas especially important to GFWC: Our GFWC Signature Program and our GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

FRIDAY'S SPEAKER: Sara Barber, Executive Director of SCCADVASA (South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault). <u>https://www.sccadvasa.org</u>.

SATURDAY'S SPEAKER: Marian St.Clair, GFWC Past International President 2020-2022, GFWC Women's History and Resource Center Chairman 2024-2026 and current GFWC-SC Parliamentary Advisor. Marian will speak to us about our headquarters building at 1734 N Street in Washington, DC and about the Women's History & Resource Center therein. Marian has a unique perspective, having been in residence in the building during the two years of her administration.

Grounding

A seed magnifies the glory of ordinary days Of ways that unlock the promise of green Of things to be loved once more. Revolutionary love of all creatures, earth, sky And the whys of people – all are neighbors Harboring new ways of living truly together. Our blindness revealed by the hum of resilient faith The drum of new life, bluest blue over earth carpet Eyes feast. Hearts unlock. Arms embrace. The shape of thoughts births joy and possibility Ability to breathe and exhale clarity, truth Understand the miracle of everything. To bring ever and always the glory of ordinary days.

BE SOMEONE'S

Janet Smalley, GFWCSC Poet Laureate



Convention Attire and Other Information

The Upstate District welcomes you to Rock Hill at our Friday opening ceremonies and luncheon. Dress for Friday daytime will be Business attire. We will hear the Executive Director of SCCADVASA (South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) speak and we will collect items for our service project for Safe Passage Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Shelter. Friday evening social hour will be outside in the covered patio space - weather permitting. The theme for Friday evening's social will be "Sunflower Soiree." Dress for Friday evening will be floral themed. We are asking members to wear floral themed attire: Choose your favorite flower and dress in floral prints, a floral color, jewelry and accessories. For example, you may come in all rose red, wear a hat adorned with flowers, wear floral jewelry, or wear a floral print. Dress will be business casual within the theme. Take the theme and run with it if you like because there will be a prize for best interpretation of the theme! After our 'Floral Fantasy' buffet dinner and awards, we will have fun with our Juniors and the ever-popular Junior Purse Auction, so bring your checkbook!

Saturday Morning dress is Business Casual and GFWC-SC/GFWC/Club Attire is encouraged. Our Saturday morning business meeting will include a special treat: Marian St.Clair, Past International President 2020-2022, Women's History and Resource Chairman 2024-2026 and current Parliamentary Advisor, will speak to us about GFWC's Women's History and Resource Center and our international headquarters building. Marian brings a unique perspective, having lived in residence for the two years of her administration. We will vote on proposed changes to the Bylaws, a proposed Resolution, and present awards. A Memorial Service will be held at the conclusion of our business meeting on Saturday morning, where we will honor GFWC-SC club members who have passed away between May 2024 and April 2025. Each District President will participate in the service by lighting a candle in memory of members from her district as club members from her district stand in honor. This special service will be lead this year by Jo Anne Hooper of Woman's Club of Rock Hill. It is always a solemn and moving time when we pause to remember those club sisters who are no longer with us. Directly after the service, we will be in recess for the afternoon.

Please plan to spend the afternoon in Rock Hill, find a fun place for lunch (find the list in your welcome bag of dining and shopping opportunities nearby) and take time for a little rest if needed. Tip: Have your 'elevator speech' ready!

Come back fresh Saturday evening. We'll conclude our convention in cocktail attire: Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 in the hotel bar area. At 7:00, we'll reconvene in the meeting room, enjoy our buffet dinner as we 'Celebrate 365 Days of Sunshine.' We will continue with some special awards and finally, we'll conclude our awards and celebrate our 2025 Volunteer of the Year and 2025 Woman of Distinction. Drawing for the lucky winners of our President's Basket Raffle, which benefits the GFWC-SC President's Travel Fund, will close out our evening.

Raffle tickets are available online with your registration this year but be sure to bring extra pocket money for additional tickets and the 50/50 raffles!

2025 Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, April 24, 20254:00-6:00 p.m.Early Registration6:00 p.m.Past President's Dinner

Executive Committee Meeting - location and time TBA

Friday, April 24, 2025		
9:15 a.m.	Registration Opens	
9:45 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	
11:00 a.m.	Opening of Convention and Welcome Luncheon (dress is Business Casual)	
SPEAKER	Sara Barber, Executive Director of SCCADVASA (South Carolina	
	Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)	
AWARDS	Community Service, Advancement Area & other Awards	
6:00 p.m.	'SUNFLOWER SOIREE' Social - Cash Bar, covered portico	
	adjacent to the hotel bar (weather permitting) Dress is floral	
	theme – floral prints, colors, floral themed jewelry and	
	accessories, business casual within the theme.	
7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner – Floral Fantasy Buffet Dinner	
_	Entertainment: Southern Wesleyan University acapella group	

JUNIOR CELEBRATION

SPEAKER	TBA	
AWARDS	Director of Junior Clubs' Special Project Awards, Junior Awards,	
	Creative Arts Awards	

JUNIOR PURSE AUCTION

Saturday, April 25, 2025

8:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast		
9:30 a.m.	Convention in Session (business casual or GFWC/GFWC- SC/Club Attire)		
	Bylaws Committee Report and Vote, Resolutions Committee Report and Vote		
	Reports from GFWC-SC Board of Trustees and Standing Committees		
11:00 a.m.	Business Meeting		
SPEAKER	Marian St.Clair, GFWC Past International President 2020-2022,		
	GFWC Women's History & Resource Center Chairman 2024-		
	2026 and current GFWC-SC Parliamentary Advisor.		
	District Presidents and GFWC-SC Officer Reports		
	District Meetings & District Awards		
MEMORIAL SERVICE conducted by Jo Anne Hooper, Woman's Club of Rock Hill			
2:00-6:00 p.m.	Lunch and shopping on your own. (List of local restaurants and shops in welcome bag.)		

2025 Preliminary Agenda continued

Saturday, April 25, 2025 Evening				
6:00 p.m.	Reception/Social Hour-Cash Bar - Hotel Bar/Pre-function area			
7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner –365 Days of Sunshine Celebration Dinner			
	(Cocktail attire)			
	Entertainment: Singer-songwriter Jennifer Goree			
AWARDS	President's Special Project Awards			
	President's Award of Excellence			
	Recognition of 2025 Honor Roll, Recognition of 2025 Order of the Jessamine			
	Announcement of GFWC-SC Volunteer of the Year			
	Announcement of GFWC-SC Woman of Distinction			
	GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs' Final Remarks			
	GFWC-SC President's Final Remarks			
	Invitation to 2026 Annual Convention - Coastal District			
	Winners of the President's Basket Raffle Announced			
	Adjournment of 127th GFWC-SC Convention			





Dates to Remember

GFWC-SC Legislation Day - March 13, 2025, 9:15 a.m. South Carolina State House, Gervais Street entrance

Deadline to send names of deceased club members to GFWC-SC Leadership Chairman, Norma England, April 18, 2025

GFWC-SC 127th Annual Convention, Columbia, South Carolina April 24 - April 27, 2025

GFWC Annual Convention, Omni, downtown Atlanta, GA June 6-9, 2025

