

GFWC South Carolina

CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE



"Lift Them Up...Let Them Soar"



sccadvasa

South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



GFWC
est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
SOUTH CAROLINA**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

September 2026 | Volume 84 | Issue 3

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	2026-2028 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents
3-11	Messages From GFWC-SC Executive Committee
14-19	Community Service Programs Advancement Plans Signature Program
20-22	Letter from The International President Words Matter GFWC International Convention Pheonix Arizona
23-24	15th Annual Christmas Stocking Extravaganza In Loving Memory Don't be fooled by Scammers
25-28	GFWC Southern Region Annual Meeting Dates to Remember GFWC-SC Poet Laureate

2026-2028 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents

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

1st Vice President: Carrie Zimmerman
605 White Oak Farms Road,Tamassee, SC 29686
czim22@gmail.com 864-710-5851

2nd Vice President: Katie Moydell
200 Conrad Circle, Columbia, SC 29212
katiemoydell1020@gmail.com 803-608-2748

Secretary: Kathy Heagen
2316 Brentbill Circle, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
heagen0131@gmail.com 843-655-2688

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

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

Director-elect of Junior Clubs: Ann Dosen
538 Eagles Rest Drive, Chapin, SC 29036
annmdosen@gmail.com 737-422-3996

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

Special Assistant to the President: Laurie O'Kelly
316 Longbow Court, Columbia, SC 29212
llok385@aol.com 803-530-9665

Parliamentary Advisor: Caroline Mahaffey
PO Box 39, Simpsonville, SC 29681
rrealestcm@aol.com 864-430-6688

Coastal District President: Lynn Macan
1597 Northlake Blvd, Bluffton, SC 29909
lynnmacan@mac.com 518-466-9164

Midlands District President: Susan Lee
PO Box 294, Pelion, SC 29123
susank311@outlook.com 803-543-6534

Upstate District President: Elizabeth Renneker
119 White Springs Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29302
elizabeth_kendall25@yahoo.com 864-316-5310



It was great seeing so many of you at our Summer Session and I encourage more of you to attend in the future! The enthusiasm, fellowship, and dedication on display reminded me why GFWC-SC is such a special organization.

One of the highlights of this session was announcing the partnership GFWC-SC has entered with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA). While we have worked with them in the past, this formal partnership strengthens our relationship and allows us to respond quickly when needs arise. It was an honor to sign the agreement on behalf of GFWC-SC with Sara Barber, Executive Director of SCCADVASA!



Our keynote speaker, Angie Whitehead, executive director of The Women's Shelter shared the incredible work being done to provide a safe haven for homeless women in crisis in the Midlands. Thank you to everyone who generously donated cleaning supplies and paper products for the shelter.

I hope all of you who were there and participated in the abbreviated version of Walk a Mile in Her Shoes left with a deeper understanding why it is so difficult for someone to "just leave" when they are a victim of domestic abuse. We have plans to do the full version of this at our state convention.

Program Council met the night before our Summer Session and approved initiatives for this administration. Be on the lookout for more information on these.

In June, 21 ladies from the South Carolina Federation arrived in Scottsdale, AZ to attend the International Convention. We attended many informative sessions with dynamic speakers. We all had a great time with our fellow Federation sisters! And congratulations to Juliet Casper! She was elected treasurer of GFWC International.

I recently returned from the GFWC Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC where we had a full agenda focused on the future of our Federation. One of the most memorable experiences was visiting Arlington National Cemetery where we had the honor of seeing our GFWC leadership lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also were able to tour the Military Woman's Memorial. South Carolina clubs have been very generous in their support of this memorial and our state was recognized at the International Convention in Scottsdale for this.

GFWC President Wendy Cariker's theme Unity in Diversity, reminds us that our greatest strength comes from working together. As she said, "Together, we will continue living our motto, Unity in Diversity. Moving forward, we will build on the strengths of past administrations with leadership, membership, and educational opportunities that will elevate and magnify our volunteer efforts."

My theme for this administration is Lift Them Up...Let Them Soar and when I think of survivors of domestic or sexual assault, I think of the incredible courage it takes to overcome fear, trauma, and uncertainty. Through our partnership, our service, and our compassion, we have the opportunity to help survivors find hope, healing, and confidence to soar to a brighter future.

Thank you for your continued commitment to GFWC-SC and for the countless ways you serve your communities every day. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your president. Together, we will continue lifting others up, empowering those in need, and making a lasting difference across South Carolina.

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Jones
GFWC-SC President



SCCADVASA News

SCCADVASA & GFWC-SC Launch Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Partnership



On August 15th, SCCADVSA Executive Director Sara Barber joined the [General Foundation of Women's Clubs - South Carolina \(GFWC-SC\)](#) for their Summer Session to sign a partnership agreement with new GFWC-SC President Kaye Jones as part of a special "Lift Them Up... Let Them Soar" initiative focused on domestic and sexual violence awareness.

More than 80 women from across South Carolina attended the event with members signing a pledge to "Stand Up, Speak Up, and Show Up" for those experiencing domestic or sexual violence.

We are grateful for GFWC-SC's partnership and commitment to supporting survivors. 💜



Courtney Evans
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs



As always, I had an amazing time at the GFWC Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. There were so many special moments, but one that I will always treasure was watching my beautiful friend, Michelle Blackmon, proudly carry the South Carolina state flag during her final procession as GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs.

Michelle, thank you for your unwavering mentorship, encouragement, and support over the past two years. It has been such a privilege to serve alongside you and learn from your leadership. More than that, I am incredibly grateful for the friendship we've built along the way. Your kindness, dedication, and heart have made this journey even more meaningful, and I look forward to many more memories together.

Congratulations on a remarkable term—you have represented South Carolina with grace and excellence, and I couldn't be prouder of you.

The 2026-2028 GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, "Spread Your Wings," focuses on addressing period poverty among youth. Period poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products, proper sanitation, menstrual health education, and hygiene facilities.

As Clubwomen, our mission is to help end period poverty by increasing access to menstrual products, education, and essential resources while working to eliminate the stigma surrounding menstruation. We can achieve this through three key efforts: providing access, educating our communities, and advocating for lasting change.

To support your club's efforts, I have compiled a list of project ideas and organizations that work to combat period poverty. These resources are intended to inspire meaningful service projects and community partnerships.

To recognize and celebrate each club's achievements, the following awards will be presented based on reported project accomplishments:

Periodt.

Awarded to the club with the highest per capita donation by fundraising, in-kind support, or volunteering to any organization that advocates for period poverty .

Super

Awarded to the club that overall best incorporates the Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, "Spread Your Wings" in effort to help spread awareness about period poverty through fundraising, in-kind support, or volunteering.

P.M.S. (Partnership & Mutual Success)

Awarded to the clubs that use collaborative efforts in their participation of the Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, "Spread Your Wings".

PROJECT IDEAS:

Assemble period packs
Raise funds for menstrual care access
Donate period products to local schools
Host community events that educate on period poverty
Donate feminine products to local shelters

ORGANIZATIONS:

Revolution Red - <https://www.endperiodpoverty.us/>
Period. - <https://period.org/>
Period Project - <https://periodproject.org/>
Aunt Flow - <https://goauntflow.com/>
Church World Service - <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/assemble-period-packs-for-menstrual-hygiene-day/>

In Junior Love,

Courtney

Courtney Evans
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs



MESSAGE FROM GFWC-SC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

It is so exciting to see the clubs already hosting membership events and promoting all the good works that the upcoming club year will bring! I hope we see all our clubs increase in membership and connect with new members.

As many of you know, membership is my focus as 1st Vice President but also, I have the pleasure of serving as a committee member with the GFWC membership committee. This is going to allow me to bring firsthand information to GFWC-SC on the focus that membership is working towards and how we can continue to grow GFWC-SC.

There is a membership challenge that we encourage all clubs to take part in at the GFWC level. The name is the STARS Unity Challenge. This challenge is over the next two years. Please see the handout in our Clubwoman on page 8.

Another membership challenge is that I would like every club to send me pictures, stories, and anything else that talks about the IMPACT that your clubs have made in your community. We are not giving ourselves enough credit on what our clubs do for our community. We will be starting our membership newsletter soon! It will be named the Palmetto Press. The Palmetto Press will highlight these fabulous stories, pictures, and IMPACT that our GFWC-SC Clubs are doing. Be proud of your accomplishments and shine!

I look forward to working with all of you and being your membership connection!

In Federation Love,

Carrie

Carrie Zimmerman
GFWC-SC First Vice President



2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

GFWC UNITY MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Every great idea begins with a spark – a moment when individuals come together, united by purpose and passion. The GFWC Unity Membership Challenge was created to ignite that spark within every club and every member. It's more than a program – it's a celebration of who we are, what we stand for, and the difference we make when we shine together.

What is the Challenge? It is your club's invitation to dream big, connect deeply, and celebrate what makes GFWC shine – our members! This challenge is all about building unity through purpose and service, one bright idea at a time.

The **GFWC Unity Membership Challenge** is designed to strengthen our clubs by encouraging connection, creativity, and community impact – all while growing and retaining members. Each "STAR point" represents a key area of club vitality: **Shine, Tell, Activate, Recruit, and Spark**. Together, these five challenges guide our clubs through a well-rounded approach to building membership, visibility, and unity.

Each "STAR POINT" represents a key area of growth and connection. Through the GFWC Unity Membership Challenge, clubs are encouraged to:

S – Shine: Let your club's light sparkle in the community by increasing visibility and sharing the GFWC spirit.

T – Tell: Tell your story – proudly share your projects, impact, and member experiences through local media, social posts, and conversations.

A – Activate: Build partnerships and engage your community by collaborating with other organizations and groups that share our values.

R – Recruit: Invite others to join you in service! Every project is a chance to welcome new faces and fresh ideas.

S – Spark: Keep that spark alive by nurturing connection, friendship, and belonging among all members – new and seasoned alike.

Together, these five challenges inspire clubs to reach out, lift up, and shine brightly as one united GFWC. The GFWC Unity Membership Challenge celebrates not only numbers but relationships – the friendships, partnerships, and shared purpose that make GFWC shine. Each activity is designed to help members connect more deeply with one another and with the communities they serve.

Complete all five STAR POINT challenges by **February 1, 2028**, and your club will be recognized for outstanding achievement in membership unity and growth. But more importantly, you'll feel the joy that comes from working together, celebrating diversity, and creating lasting bonds through service. Let's light the way for others to follow.

Be bold. Be bright. Be united. Be a STAR!

As you take part in this challenge, remember: every new connection you make, every story you share, and every act of service you give brings us one step closer to a brighter, stronger GFWC. Together, we rise, we shine, and we unite – as STARS guiding the way for others to follow.

You can find all the details for the challenge in the GFWC Unity Membership Challenge Toolkit in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.





MESSAGE FROM GFWC-SC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Hello GFWC-SC!

Thank you to all the chairmen and club presidents who were able to attend Summer Board. I hope the Mission Boards provided a helpful visual cue and sparked fresh creativity as you plan for the year ahead. These Mission Boards are available on the GFWC-SC website for your review. During our time together, we also explored the extensive resources available in the GFWC Club Manual and hosted President's Institute for our newly elected club presidents.

I encourage every club president to use the GFWC Club Manual as a guiding resource throughout your administration. It can be found on the GFWC website under the Member Portal. Each section offers detailed information about our areas of focus, featured projects, and affiliate organizations—it is an invaluable tool as you shape your club's work this year.

Two upcoming Zoom workshops will be available for Club Presidents:

- **President's Institute Recap** — *September 13, 2026 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.* This session is intended only for Club Presidents who were unable to attend Summer Board.
- **Reporting Workshop** — *November 15, 2026 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.* This workshop will provide reporting guidance to ensure your club's achievements are accurately captured and celebrated.

Zoom links will be distributed to Club Presidents and chairmen closer to each date.

I look forward to collaborating with each of you—and your remarkable club members—throughout this administration. Thank you for the dedication, creativity, and compassion you bring to your communities and to one another.

"Teamwork makes the dream work" - John C. Maxwell

In Federation Love,

Katie

Katie Moydell
GFWC-SC Second Vice President



MESSAGE FROM GFWC-SC TREASURER

Hello, Autumn—Welcome cooler temperatures and a quicker pace!

Fall is a busy season for GFWC-SC club treasurers with several important deadlines approaching.

Membership Dues and Club Rosters:

GFWC-SC dues are due November 1 and must be paid by then for clubs to be eligible to apply for grants from the SCFWC Progress Foundation. The remittance form is available on the GFWC-SC website.

Updated club rosters are due at the same time. Electronic versions are appreciated.

Tax Filings

Most GFWC-SC clubs must file with the IRS in September or October. Remember to register with the Secretary of State as a charity, and register for raffles if you plan to hold any raffle other than a 50/50.

Treasurer Forum - A New Source of Information

New to the treasurer role?

Facing a new challenge?

Wondering how other clubs handle similar situations?

Serving as treasurer can be a lonely job.

We're changing that with a new resource: a monthly Treasurer's Forum.

All GFWC-SC club treasurers are invited to a Zoom conference call on the fourth Tuesday of each month. You'll receive an invitation from me and I hope to see you there.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. I'm here to help.

In Federation Love,

Katie

Katie Whitten
GFWC-SC Treasurer



MESSAGE FROM GFWC-SC SECRETARY

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer finding time to relax before our busy club season begins again. This officer attended the GFWC Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona and had the opportunity to connect with clubwomen from across the country. It was a reminder that although each club is unique, we are all united and share the same commitment to serving our communities and making a lasting difference.

It was a delight to see so many of you at Summer Board August 14th, and I encourage you to attend your upcoming District meeting and the upcoming GFWC-SC Southern Region Conference in Jacksonville, Florida from October 23-25, 2026.

As a quick reminder, if you delivered a report at Summer Board, I'd be grateful if you could forward a copy to me at heagen0131@gmail.com. It's always best to provide a copy of your report at the meeting. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and makes preparing accurate minutes so much easier.

To assist our club Secretaries with effective minute-taking, let me offer some helpful guidelines.

What to Include:

- The meeting type, date, meeting start time, location, and adjournment time.
- Use the agenda as a guide. If your club does not follow an agenda, encourage them to do so.
- Whether the previous minutes were approved or corrected.
- Every main motion including the exact wording of the motion as adopted or disposed of.
- Whether the motion passed or failed.
- All adopted amendments and election results.
- Reports that were adopted or filed, noting any subsequent actions.
- The secretary's signature if your club requires it.

What to Exclude:

- Transcripts of member conversations.
- Personal opinions or commentary, or interpretations of discussions.
- Arguments for or against motions.
- Praise or criticism of members.

In Federation Love,

Kathy

Kathy Heagen
GFWC-SC Secretary

LIFT THEM UP- LET THEM SOAR!!!

GFWC-SC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

The three major types of abuse in South Carolina are domestic/partner violence, child maltreatment, and elder mistreatment. Types of abuse include physical, verbal, psychological, financial, emotional and sexual. Sadly, funding nationwide has been cut for victims of abuse. When funds are cut, negative impacts are seen with victims/survivors, staffing with resource organizations, elimination of programs, and the closing of shelters just to name a few. We must educate all persons (victims and society) on what abuse is, so everyone can do their part.

The focus of this administration is to help survivors of abuse and to work to change the laws to prevent and punish future abusers. The following awards will be presented:

- Up, Up, and Away – Best project that involves collaboration between two or more clubs across the state that impact survivors of abuse.*
- Fly Like an Eagle – Best club project (new or enhanced) that aids shelters for survivors in our state.*
- Defying Gravity – best club project that encourages club members to work legislatively to influence our representatives regarding bills intending to prevent abuse and/or helping survivors succeed in life. Usage of the Legislative Action Center nationally and locally will be a focus.*

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

Your friend in Federation,

Elizabeth Renneker

864-316-5310

elizabeth_kendall25@yahoo.com





GFWC-SC Junior's Special Program Advocates for Children



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

2026 Advocates for Children Week:
Sunday, October 25 – Saturday, October 31, 2026
"Be A Unified Force for Children"



During Advocates for Children Week, clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local child care facilities to identify their needs for children or families during the holiday season.

The Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children encourages advocacy and projects that will assist and protect children in crisis, including those experiencing: child abuse, cyberbullying, depression and suicide, foster or residential care, housing instability, human trafficking, life-threatening illness, cyber predators, and poverty.

The GFWC 2026-2028 Club Manual is an excellent resource for project ideas, additional information, affiliate organizations, and links to related resources.

There is no need to recreate the wheel; maximize your Club's impact by building on an idea inspired by one of the many GFWC Club's previous projects. Use your GFWC, GFWC-SC, and local community resources for inspiration, including advocacy efforts (check the GFWC Legislative Action Center), collaborate with a community organization, focus on children's health and safety, and work with foster care programs, to name a few.

In Junior Love,

Ann

Ann Dosen
GFWC-SC Director-elect of Junior Clubs
AnnMDosen@gmail.com - 727-422-3996

ARTS AND CULTURE



Inspiration to start your club year - "The ARTS ignites imagination, builds self-confidence in young people, fosters empathy, and brings beauty into our everyday lives, whether through multi-media, music, dance, or theater. CULTURE is the thread that weaves communities together — it connects us to our roots, celebrates our diversity, and shapes our collective identity. By honoring both, we revere our shared humanity by inspiring new ideas, encouraging dialogue, and providing opportunities for expression and connection across generations". I encourage you to use the GFWC Club Manual as a great resource to help navigate this year's changes.

Introducing the Unity Challenge. Read more about it in the *GFWC 2026-2028 Club Manual*.



2026-2028 ARTS & CULTURE UNITY PROJECT THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE

Clubs and State/District of Columbia Federations are encouraged to dive into an exciting and creative initiative encompassing all areas of the Arts & Culture Service Program. This challenge invites participants to stretch their reach — much like an octopus — by completing two projects in each of four areas: Art, Music, Dance/Theater, and Culture. Together, these eight projects form the foundation of the challenge and promote creativity, expression, and cultural appreciation.

But we're not finished yet! For ambitious groups, a bonus challenge is available. After all, while an octopus may only have eight arms, we know she can grow another when needed. For bonus credit and special recognition, complete two additional projects in each of these areas: supporting Affiliate Organizations and cultural traditions from other areas of the world such as, such as Lei Day, Diwali, Día de Los Muertos, and more. By the end of this administration, participants will have created a legacy of service as wide-reaching and inclusive as an octopus's embrace. Let your ideas flow and make waves of creativity and inspiration.

Some ideas you might try:

- Use member or children's art for club cookbook covers, greeting cards, program covers, etc.
- Paint rocks with inspirational words and place them all over the city in places where they can be found. A kind word goes a long way.
- Collect oral histories from local musicians or host a "Music Through the Decades" event.
- Arrange for theater or dance groups to perform at senior centers, children's hospitals, or care facilities. A short play, skit, or dance performance can brighten lives and provide meaningful community connection.
- Host welcome events for international students at local universities and local schools. Invite them to speak at a meeting and learn about their culture.

GFWC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST has made some changes. The GFWC Photography Contests encourage members' artistic expression and visual storytelling while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. Members do not need an expensive camera to take great pictures. Today's cell phones provide a way to take creative photographs that are contest-worthy.

GFWC offers four opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests. In the GFWC Club manual is a list of great resources such as "How to Take Good Photos with a Phone - 11 Killer Tips" and the link is provided.

New This Administration: Only digital submissions are accepted.

Looking forward to your imagination and creativity in the coming club year. If I can help, please reach out. If I don't know the answer, I'll find out.

In Federation Friendship,

Lynne

Lynne Hauptner, Chairman
peacelynne@aol.com - 803-413-4099

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH



Civic Engagement and Outreach is just that. Work within your community and beyond.

Civic Engagement and Outreach covers a wide variety of topics including citizenship, crime prevention, disaster preparedness, support for the unhoused, food insecurity and military veterans.

Citizenship: Voting rights. Encourage your community to register to vote. Attend a local town meeting to see how your club can participate in the betterment of your community government.

Safety and Preparedness: make sure your community is prepared for any disaster. Hurricane or Earthquake. Maybe schedule a CPR class with your local fire department and invite your community.

Assist the Needy: When was the last food drive for your local food bank?

Veterans: support your local veterans.

There are many more organizations that will be highlighted in future issues.

During the 2026-2028 administration watch your Clubwoman Magazine for challenges and opportunities to reach out locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

In Federation Friendship,

Karen

Karen Adams, Chairman
622 Freshwater Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909
Karen.adams51@yahoo.com - 843-290-3702



The 2027 GFWC-SC LEADS — The Heart of Leadership

The GFWC-SC 2027 LEADS will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2027, at the Woman's Club of Cayce Clubhouse from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Topics to include The GFWC Learning Academy, Leadership, Membership, CPR & Branding, Succession Planning - Why we do it, Why Robert's Rules?, plus more!!

Mark your calendar now for this very exciting day where you will leave inspired to LEAD others in your club, your district and our state.

Look for additional information and application in the GFWC-SC December Clubwoman magazine.

In Federation Friendship,

Janet

Janet Prince, Chairman
jhprince@aol.com - 803-665-9667



Hello GFWC-SC Club Women,

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Dr. Seuss also reminded us, "The more you read, the more you know. The more you learn, the more places you will go."

Let's soar together by promoting education, literacy, and library use throughout our communities. There are many meaningful ways we can make a difference and support lifelong learning for people of all ages.

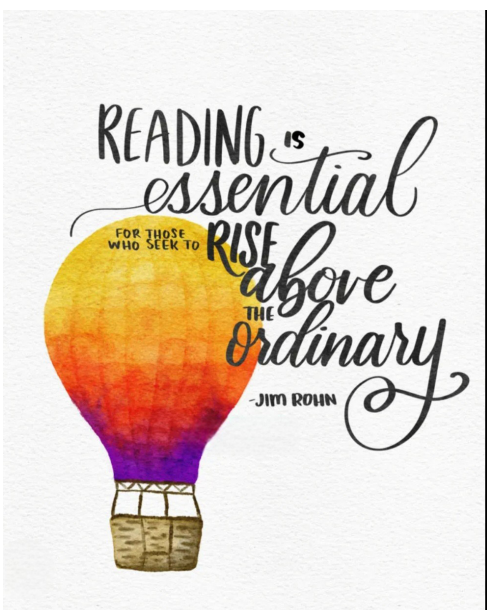
Here are a few project ideas for consideration:

- Collaborate with local libraries by hosting a tour, class, or special celebration. Encourage families in your community to register for library cards and help promote the many free services available through your local library.
- Support senior centers by providing large-print reading materials, organizing a book club, leading an activity, or offering an educational class. Learning truly has no age limit.
- Partner with schools in your district by providing support to students and faculty. Consider creating a mentoring program, create or fund a care closet to help meet students' immediate needs, including food, clothing, toiletries, and school supplies. We know that learning is most effective when basic needs are met.
- Establish or contribute to a trade school scholarship. Not every student is interested in or will pursue a university education, and skilled trades remain essential to keeping our communities and economy running.
- Encourage club members to join the GFWC Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) Book Club. You may also consider creating a club book club and track your group's reading through the ESO program.

Together, we can inspire a love of learning, expand access to educational opportunities, and strengthen our communities through literacy and service.

Thank you for your commitment to education and lifelong learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance to your club.

Stay curious, Paula Melton Pinner





Environment

PROTECT TODAY,
PRESERVE TOMORROW

2026-2028
UNITY PROJECT

THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE



PRESERVE RESOURCES

Seed saving is a way to reduce the cost of producing healthy food and will help future generations enjoy healthy varieties of food. Check the website for ideas.

www.thespruce.com

Learn about the dangers associated with fracking, such as air and water pollution and human health issues. Consider a program on the pros and cons of this issue or another questionable environmental practice. Consider all viewpoints and then take a blind poll (pro, con, or unsure) to hear what members think.



PROTECT WILDLIFE AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

Engage with the World Wildlife Fund to learn about the world's most endangered wildlife species and programs that help their cause, such as Sign On to Stop Wildlife Crime and Adopt a Tiger.



LIVE SUSTAINABLY

Chart a path towards zero waste in your community by using tools suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Participate in Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe Program, which accepts worn-out sneakers and makes Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces and playgrounds.

THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE

These projects will focus on habitat restoration and preservation of biodiversity.

Clubs are asked to partner with other organizations on projects dedicated to the restoration of habitat, with an emphasis on protecting native plants and pollinators.

SOME EXAMPLES ARE:

- Work with state or county Departments of Natural Resources to harvest local plants from construction sites or add native plants to parks and recreation areas.
- Partner with youth troops to earn badges or special awards.
- Host an event with Master Gardeners or Master Recyclers / Composters to educate the community on the importance of native plants and recycling correctly.

GFWC | LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY. LIFE.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



What a challenge for me this year as Health and Wellness CSP Chairman. The GFWC Health and Wellness CSP Chairman is no other than our own Laurie O'Kelly from South Carolina. Laurie is most qualified to serve in this position as she has experience serving GFWC on the local, State, Regional and National levels.

Please check the GFWC Manual, Health and Wellness section beginning on page 94 for the new and exciting ways to stay Healthy and Well. I am most excited about the 150 minute initiative - free and easy - the secret to staying healthy is to keep MOVING and EATING HEALTHY.

Health and Wellness is joining the GFWC SC Juniors in their Period Poverty Project for this Administration.

Our GFWC affiliates - see the GFWC Manual - make great programs for your club. This year we have a brand new affiliate, Safe Surfin' Foundation, focusing on internet safety for youth.



Please remember I am as close as the internet or the phone.

Healthy yours,

Dianne

Dianne McIntosh McCarty, Chairman
diannemccarty@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Have you had a chance to look at the new GFWC Club Manual for 2026-2028? You can find the manual at [GFWC.org](https://www.gfwc.org) in the Digital Library section, once you've signed in. It is full of information and ideas on how to enhance your club's presence in your community and even beyond.

Below is a checklist of items to consider. You may already have some of these covered, but perhaps they can help your club grow in new ways!



- _____ Are you using the GFWC Logo and Emblem correctly per the GFWC Style Guide?
- _____ Do you have a list of local media contacts--print, digital, radio, tv?
- _____ Do you invite news outlets to promote and attend your events/fundraisers?
- _____ Do you submit proclamations commending your club for community work to your city council?
- _____ Are you a member of your local Chamber of Commerce?
- _____ Do you regularly submit press releases on your work to the media?
- _____ Do you communicate regularly with your club members through a newsletter?
- _____ Do you have a club website?
- _____ Do you have a club email account that is monitored regularly?
- _____ Do you have a presence on social media?
- _____ Do you utilize hashtags?
- _____ Do you use Adobe Acrobat to create forms and modify PDF's?
- _____ Do you use CANVA to create graphic designs?
- _____ Have your leaders joined the GFWC Advancement and Programs Facebook Forum?
- _____ How do you store and share your club records?
- _____ Have you ventured into the world of AI?
- _____ Do you plan to write club reports on your Communications and PR activities?
- _____ Do you plan to enter the Newsletter and Website contests?

Additional information on any of the above questions can be found in the GFWC 2026-2028 Club Manual—pages 138-148! Check it out!

In Federation Friendship,

Tina

Tina Majors, Chairman

gfwcvolunteer.tinamajors@gmail.com - 615-415-5909



SIGNATURE PROGRAM DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence abuse in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, working with various established programs, and initiating educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.

The GFWC Signature Program has eight areas of focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| *Campus Sexual Assault | *Child Abuse |
| *Elder Abuse | *Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes |
| *Intimate Partner Violence | *Military Sexual Assault |
| *Teen Dating Violence | *Violence Against Native American Women |

GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors

Kick off your club year by doing this Unity Project with your club members.

Stand Up. Speak Up. Show Up.

What Members Can Do:

1. Download or print the pledge. (found in the Member Portal Digital Library, Club Manual or use the QR code below.)
2. Write your name on the pledge (digitally or by hand).
3. Take a photo of yourself holding your signed pledge.
4. Post it to your social media (Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, etc.) using the hashtags: #GFWCforSurvivors and #GFWCStandSpeakShowUp
5. Add our state coalition hashtag to connect locally - #GFWCSC.
6. Encourage others — your club members, community leaders, and friends — to take the pledge and then take their photos and share them on your club and state socials.

In Federation Friendship,

Peggy

Peggy Aun, Chairman

aunthemove@gmail.com - 803.920.9124

LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

2026-2028 ADMINISTRATION



Dear Fellow Members,

With great pride and excitement, I welcome you to the GFWC 2026-2028 Administration. I am honored to serve as your 56th GFWC International President. Together, we will continue living our motto, Unity in Diversity. Moving forward, we will build on the strengths of past administrations with leadership, membership, and educational opportunities that will elevate and magnify our volunteer efforts.

Our Strategic Plan will guide us in forging a strong future through engagement and volunteer opportunities for every member of our 136-year-old organization. As we look back on the many accomplishments in our rich history, we will continue to make positive change through nonpartisan legislative advocacy and direct volunteer service.

The 2026-2028 Unity Projects will strengthen our programs and support our work as we reach out in our communities. This outreach will help us share our branding and improve our communities by working with other nonprofit groups for the betterment of all. The Community Service Programs will focus on: Arts and Culture – The Octopus Challenge, Civic Engagement and Outreach – Save the Beat!, Educations and Libraries – Unity Through Reading: Every Story Matters, Environment – The Right Plant in the Right Place, and Health and Wellness – Move for a Healthier You. You can learn more about these and the Unity Projects in the Special Programs, Advancement Areas, and Juniorette sections of the GFWC Club Manual.

Restoring and refurbishing our GFWC Headquarters' property, built in 1875, will be a priority. The Façade Restoration and Beautification Project will restore the iconic white front-facing exterior walls of GFWC's Headquarters buildings. The focus on Unity in Diversity combined with the preservation of our historic Headquarters creates a powerful balance between honoring the past and driving future growth.

On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Let us celebrate the accomplishments of those strong women who lead the way. Our coordinated Federation Day initiative will include draft proclamations and social media campaign components so that we can all highlight the strong women who created our rich GFWC history.

How will you honor the past and pave the path for the future during the 2026-2028 Administration? With our five Community Service Programs, our Advancement Areas, the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and the Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children, there are so many meaningful ways for all of our members to get involved, share their talents, and make a difference.

Together, we celebrate Unity in Diversity while Living the Volunteer Spirit!

Wendy J. Carriker

WENDY J. CARRIKER
GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Finding cures.
Saving children.



WORDS MATTER

My candidate speech at the GFWC Annual Convention reminded members that words have power and individual and collective voices matter. Artificial intelligence is a tool to assist members. A member's judgment, empathy and lived experiences are irreplaceable.

In each issue of this magazine, I will highlight one word, sharing why it matters. I came across this issue's word on the St. Jude website. As many of you may know, St. Jude became a GFWC Affiliate in 2016 when the Annual Convention was held in Memphis, Tennessee. GFWC South Carolina has had a team for the St. Jude Walk to End Childhood Cancer ever since then. The walk is virtual and can be done anytime during the month of September.



The word is *Global*, as in St. Jude Global. Beth Perkins spoke about this at the affiliates panel discussion at the GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. She shared that in many countries only 1 out of 5 children who develop cancer will survive; whereas, in the United States, 4 out of 5 children survive cancer. St. Jude has set a goal to "improve global survival rates for six of the most common forms of childhood cancer from 20% to 60% by 2030."

St. Jude is working with medical institutions in more than 70 countries to raise the quality of care available and provide knowledge, skills and tools to grow and empower the local workforce. Cure4Kids is just one online resource available to healthcare professionals. You can learn more at https://global.stjude.org/en-us/?sc_icid=home-mm-global

Donating to St. Jude makes this global initiative possible. Join the GFWC-SC team for the virtual walk in September, then you can easily ask for donations via your social media accounts.

In Federation Friendship,

Juliet

**Juliet Casper, GFWC Secretary
GFWC-SC President 2018-2020**



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

International Convention Phoenix Arizona





15th Annual Christmas Stocking Extravaganza

You asked...and We Have Listened!

We are preparing for the 15th Annual Christmas Extravaganza and we need your help. We would like participation from each club in the state. Again this year, we are asking for contributions of stockings and sponsorships. Each Club President should receive a letter outlining the details. Important dates are listed below.

- Online auction begins on Black Friday, November 27
- In person Drop-in at Headquarters is Tuesday, December 1.
Tickets are \$25. *Winning Stockings will be distributed that night.*
- 50-50 auction – on-line and in person!

Packets to Presidents were mailed September 1. Please make sure that the information is shared at your September meetings! If, by chance, you did not receive the packet, please contact Susan Smith at 803 446-6163 or Ann Malpass at 803-622-0566.

IN LOVING Memory

In memory of our longtime Upstate Woman's Club member, Dorothy Quillen Boyd, who passed away on July 19, 2026.

Dorothy was a member of the Upstate Woman's Club from the time the club received its charter from GFWC-SC. She served as the club's third president, treasurer, and chair of several committees. She was also a familiar and welcoming presence at our annual membership meetings, which she hosted each fall.

In 2018, Dorothy was honored as GFWC-SC Woman of Distinction.

Dorothy was a devoted member of GFWC and of the Upstate Woman's Club, and her years of service, friendship, and dedication to our club and its work will be deeply missed.



STOP!

Don't be fooled by scammers!

If you receive an email that appears to be from someone on the Executive Committee asking you to buy gift cards, send money, make a donation, or do any other urgent favor, stop before taking any action.

While the email may display the name of Kaye Jones or another Executive Committee member, scammers often spoof the sender's name. The real clue is the actual email address it was sent from. Take a moment to view the sender's full email address in your email program. It will not be the legitimate email address of the person they are pretending to be.

If you're unsure how to view the sender's actual email address, take a few minutes to learn how your email system displays it. This simple step can help you avoid becoming the victim of a phishing scam.

If you are still in doubt if it is a real request, call and ask the actual person to confirm. Do not engage with them. Delete immediately. Keep your money safe.





OFFICIAL CALL

2026 GFWC SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL MEETING

October 23–25, 2026 • Sheraton Jacksonville • Jacksonville, Florida

Dear GFWC Southern Region Members,

It is my great pleasure to issue the Official Call to the 2026 GFWC Southern Region Annual Meeting, to be held October 23–25, 2026, at the Sheraton Jacksonville Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

Our conference theme, **Pearls of the South**, celebrates the beauty, strength, and value each member brings to our Federation. Combined with the Southern Region theme, **One by One • Serving Together • Doing Our Part**, it reminds us that every act of service strengthens our clubs, our communities, and our Region.

We are honored to welcome 2026–2028 GFWC International President Wendy Carriker and GFWC President-elect Jolie Frankfurth, who will share updates and inspiration as we continue our mission of volunteer service.

Throughout the weekend, enjoy educational workshops, leadership development, committee presentations, and reports celebrating the outstanding work taking place across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Aruba, Belize, and the Bahamas. We will also recognize our LEADS graduates while sharing ideas that strengthen our clubs and expand our impact.

Friday will be a memorable day of service, fellowship, and fun. Together we will volunteer at Feeding Northeast Florida, and visit Sweet Pete's for a guided tour, candy-making demonstration, and lunch. Friday evening concludes with Florida's State Night, "Pearls of the South," followed by the Southern Region Juniors' In It to Win It games benefiting the food bank. Clubs, members, and states are encouraged to bring monetary donations for the local food bank.

Saturday features our business session, officer reports, workshops, and celebration of our clubs' accomplishments, along with conference vendors, GFWC merchandise, and fellowship with friends old and new. Sunday morning, we will conclude our business, enjoy breakfast together, and receive the invitation to the 2027 Southern Region Annual Meeting. For Friday's activities, casual attire, comfortable walking shoes, and your favorite GFWC apparel are encouraged. Meeting attire is business casual, while evening banquets are dressy or cocktail attire.

Yours in Federation friendship and service,

Tammie McCoy

2026–2028 GFWC Southern Region President



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: gfwcflorida.org/southern-region-conference-2026/

PREVIEW OF ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration must be completed online

ATTENDEE INFORMATION	REGISTRATION	CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE
Name <u> Kaye Jones </u> Club <u> ST Andrews Woman's Club </u> State Federation <u> SC </u> Address <u> 205 Westbury Ln., </u> <u> Columbia, SC 29212 </u> Email <u> clemsongirlkaye@aol.com </u> Cell Phone <u> 803.360.8906 </u>	☒ Full Conference Registration \$25 ☐ One-Day Registration \$20	THURSDAY • Board Dinner
	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES ☐ Feeding Northeast Florida Hands-on Project \$10 <i>Select one volunteer session:</i> • 9:00–10:30 a.m. • 1:30–3:30 p.m. ☐ Sweet Pete's Tour & Lunch \$50 <i>Tour begins at 11:00 a.m.</i> ☒ Juniors' In It to Win It (Friday Evening) \$25	FRIDAY • Feeding Northeast Florida — AM: 9:00–10:30 a.m. • Sweet Pete's Tour & Lunch — 11:00 a.m. • Feeding Northeast Florida — PM: 1:30–3:30 p.m. • 2026–2030 Region President, State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs Meeting with GFWC President-elect — 5:30 p.m. • Florida State Night Dinner — 6:30 p.m. • Juniors' In It to Win It — Friday evening
HOTEL INFORMATION SHERATON JACKSONVILLE 10605 Deerwood Park Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32256 904-564-4772 Group Rate: \$159/night • Code: GFWC Hotel deadline: September 25, 2026 BOOK HOTEL: Click here for the Sheraton group rate <i>The conference registration link above also includes hotel information.</i>	MEALS Costs ☒ Board Dinner \$66 ☒ Florida State Night Dinner \$68 ☒ Luncheon Meeting \$45 ☒ Southern Region Banquet \$65 ☒ Breakfast & Closing General Session \$40	SATURDAY • Opening General Session • Luncheon Meeting • Afternoon Business Session • Southern Region Banquet SUNDAY • Breakfast & Closing General Session
		REGISTRATION INFORMATION REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 25, 2026 LATE REGISTRATION FEE: \$40 Use the active link below to register: Click here to register online PAYMENT INFORMATION Upon completion of the online registration form, you will receive an email with instructions for payment. Payment may be made through Zelle, Zeffy, or by check. If paying by check, make it payable to GFWC Florida and mail to: Lisa Klatt, 2563 Stony Brook Lane, Clearwater, FL 33761. Please include your name, Club Name, and a telephone number.



GF WC SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL MEETING

Pearls of the South

October 23–25, 2026

Sheraton Jacksonville • Jacksonville, Florida

One by One • Serving Together • Doing Our Part

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

	2:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Registration
	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Board Dinner

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

	8:00 – 11:00 a.m. 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Registration
	OPTIONAL EVENTS (Additional Registration Required)	9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Feeding Northeast Florida – Option I (Service Project) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sweet Pete's Demonstration and Lunch 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Feeding Northeast Florida – Option II (Service Project)
	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Vendor Marketplace
	5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	2028–2030 Region President, State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs meet with GFWC President-elect Jolie Frankfurth
	6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Social Time with Cash Bar
	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Pearls of the South – Florida State Night Banquet</i>
	8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Juniors' In It to Win It Games (Benefits Feeding Initiative)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration
	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Vendor Marketplace
	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Opening General Session Officer Reports Threads of a Stronger GFWC Membership Leadership Communications GFWC Presentations Community Service Programs Signature Program Juniors Special Program Legislation and Public Policy
	12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	<i>Pearls of Inspiration Luncheon</i> Featured Speaker: GFWC President-elect Jolie Frankfurth
	2:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Affiliate Showcase: Passport to Service GFWC Presentations Fundraising Annual Giving Corporate Partners and Development Juniorettes 2026 LEADS Graduates
	6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Social Time with Cash Bar
	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Pearls of Leadership – Southern Region President's Banquet</i>
	8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Reception Honoring GFWC International President Wendy Carriker

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

	8:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<i>Pearls of Service Breakfast</i> State Reports Invitation to the 2027 Southern Region Conference Adjournment
---	-------------------	---

ONE BY ONE • SERVING TOGETHER • DOING OUR PART



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 26	GFWC International Day of Service
September 27	Midlands District Conference
October	(GFWC Domestic Violence Awareness Month Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention)
October 4	Upstate District Conference
October 13	Coastal District Conference
October 23-25	GFWC Southern Region - Jacksonville, FL
October 26-30	GFWC Advocates for Children Week
December 9	GFWC Holiday Reception, GFWC Headquarters - Washington, DC

COMPLETE

I ask you to complete.
To complete the to dos from the summer
The lists crossed off and crumpled.
The sand removed from the bottom of the bags,
The flipflops to be tucked away for next year.

I ask for you to prepare
Lay a cool sheet for a warm night
Write out what's next and begin planning.

I ask you to be still
Winter is coming with its fallow days and harsh nights.
Waiting for the crackle of the fire and the gatherings indoors to honor a new year.

But until then, I beg of you to live
Fully and free with sun riped berries on sticky fingers
Cool breezes as the sun dips below the ocean
Laughter being chased room to room.

Make the marks on the walls to measure the days of growth.
Laugh at the jokes, the worn puzzles
Clasp hands with each other and remember that now is all we have.

And now is a beginning.



Kim O'rean

GFWC-SC Poet Laureate