

GFWC South Carolina CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

How Native Plants Support Birds

For ease • For wildlife • For wild pollinators • For water savings • For air quality • For beauty



Photos by: Marcie Daniels



June 2025 | Volume 83 | Issue 2



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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

June 2025 | Volume 83 | Issue 2

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We certainly celebrated 365 days of clubs being someone's sunshine in their communities at Convention 2025 in Rock Hill. Hosted by the Upstate District, convention was an amazing time for all, beginning with our Past Presidents' Dinner at The Pump House restaurant. Friday began with a profile in courage: 9th grader Serenity Anderson from Rock Hill High joined us on her spring break and sang our National Anthem acapella. We welcomed speaker Sara Barber, Executive Director of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCAADVASA), Deborah DePaoli from the Institute for Child Success, and our own Marian St.Clair, who spoke from her unique perspective about our headquarters at 1734 N St NW in Washington, D.C and the important art collection housed there. We were surprised by special visits via video from GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey and GFWC Treasurer, Juliet Casper. On Saturday morning, we conducted important federation business by beginning our approval of updates to our GFWC-SC Bylaws. It was truly an exercise in civic engagement within our federation. To all who participated by using your voice; you make our federation better and stronger. We also approved the Gun Safety Resolution submitted by Junior Woman's Club of Columbia, which encourages all gun owners to responsibly secure their firearms within their homes. On Saturday evening, the 365 Days of Sunshine slide show highlighting club's activities during the club year played while we ate and enjoyed the wonderful music of Jennifer Goree, who many of you may remember from our Southern Region Conference in Greenville. The night culminated with the President's Special Project Awards, the General Cup Awards, the President's Award of Excellence, the Rosemary Rivers Memorial Award, Honor Roll, Order of the Jessamine, the Junior Clubwoman of Achievement Award and finally the 2025 Woman of Distinction.



Our 2026 convention in the Coastal District promises to be a fun, patriotic celebration of our club year and of our country's 250th anniversary, and I sincerely hope you'll make plans to join us. Now, we welcome Summer! The warm temperatures and vacation travel are already upon us. My wish for each of you is for an easy and relaxing summer season with family and friends. I look forward to seeing many of you at our mini LEADS on August 8 and at Summer Session on August 9.

Happy Summer!

In Federation Love,

Suzanne

**Suzanne Carswell
GFWC-SC President**





As Summer Ignites in South Carolina...

While summer is turning up the heat here in South Carolina—and gathering around a fire might not be ideal—there are still countless ways you can be a spark in your local community. This season is the perfect time to ignite a passion for the outdoors in the hearts of children and help them step away from screens and into nature.

Invite a child to tend a garden with you, and share the joy of harvesting ingredients to create a fresh dish together. Water activities like boating, swimming, and fishing are also great ways to fan the flame of curiosity and get kids outside. My own kiddos are excited to spend a week at zoo camp this summer, learning and exploring in the wild heat of adventure.

When the temperatures soar, don't let the fire burn out—shift to screen-free indoor activities that continue to spark creativity. Try painting, visiting museums, or bouncing the day away at a trampoline park. The key is to keep the energy alive, indoors or out.

I truly enjoyed seeing so many of you at our convention in Rock Hill—it was such a joy and an honor to read the reports you submitted. You are absolute rock stars and fierce advocates for children. I'm especially proud of our Blue Flame, Ember, and Torch Award winners—your dedication continues to light the way for others.

Thank you for your generous donations to the purse auction fundraiser! Because of your support, I'll be attending the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta. I'm also looking forward to the Board of Directors Meeting in Salt Lake City this August. And of course, I can't wait to reconnect with my GFWC-SC sisters at Summer Board in Columbia.

Stay bold, stay bright—

Be the Spark,

Michelle

Michelle Blackmon
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs





It was a great convention in Rock Hill – I was so glad to see so many of you and we missed those who could not join us!

Membership is a key part of my responsibilities in this administration. I reported at Summer Board; we had 1,133 members as of April 2024. We now have a total of 1,094 members as of April 2025. That is a decrease of thirty-nine members. Gaining and retaining membership MUST be a priority for EVERY club in SC!

We have forty clubs in GFWC-SC. We lost two clubs this past year (Saxe Gothe Woman's Club and Belvedere Woman's Club) and their combined membership of 20 equates to half of the decrease in numbers.

Please help by holding membership drives, inviting people you think would like to be in a club to join you for a meeting, reviewing your by-laws and processes to determine if there are any inhibiting getting new members or keeping the ones you have, and making sure you include information on how to join your club every time to publicize the great work you do.

If you hear of a club questioning being in our federation, a club in trouble, a new club that may want to form, PLEASE reach out to me. I will do everything I can to help as will anyone on the EC.

When you add these new members, please make sure to complete the GFWC 2024- 2026 MEMBERSHIP "EDUCATE, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN REPORT. This report has a big name and is on our GFWC-SC website as well as the GFWC website OR I will send it to you – just ask. Either the club president or membership chair can complete this form. It is a fillable form and lets GFWC know of your new club members added in the last quarter. If you did not complete this form and send it in in October, January, or April AND you have new members, please make sure you send it in by the next deadline, which is July 1, listing ALL your new members. This gets them added to GFWC communications, so they are knowledgeable.

GFWC-SC does wonderful things for SC but to do these wonderful things, we need members! I set a goal of adding 113 to our membership roster by the end of this administration – that is a 10% gain...well, we are not getting anywhere near that this year! GFWC-SC needs your help! Together we can make this goal happen and that will only make our state federation better!

As we begin the second year of Suzanne's administration, I am honored to represent you as your President-Elect. I am starting to fill the positions in the 2026-2028 administration and would love to have YOU in a position that you have an interest in. Please give it some thought and reach out to me if you have anything particular in mind.

Please contact me if I can do anything to help you with membership. I am here for you. I hope you all have a happy, safe summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at Summer Board!

In Federation Love,

Kaye



Message From
GFWC-SC
President-Elect

Kaye Jones
GFWC-SC First Vice President



Hello fellow clubwomen!

Recently, I came across a quote that sums up the last few months perfectly: "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you" (Fred DeVito). Even though there is so much preparation that goes into putting on a conference, I believe that our GFWC South Carolina team put on a fantastic 127th Annual Convention. Thanks to everyone who made it successful and all who attended!



Message From
GFWC-SC

Second Vice President

Other thanks that are needed are to all of the clubs that reported all of the fantastic work that is done throughout the club year. GFWC SC is so proud of the good works that all of you do, and reporting gives clubs a chance to let all of us know what you all do throughout the year. If you haven't reported before or it has been a while, please reach out to me, and we can discuss easy ways to make reporting not so intimidating.

This officer will be attending the GFWC Convention in Atlanta, June 5-10, and cannot wait to report back all the good information that we will collect there.

Many clubs take a break over the summer, but don't let that stop you from attending our GFWC SC Summer Session! Ask club members to attend that have not been to a GFWC SC session before to attend, we would love to see a lot of new faces. We are looking forward to a great meeting to help kick off your club year. Summer Session is a great time to learn about GFWC SC goals and continue to learn membership, leadership, and other great tools for your club's success.

I hope everyone has a great summer and hopes to see many of you in August!

In Federation Love,

Carrie

Carrie Zimmerman
GFWC-SC Second Vice President



Let me give a big shout out and congratulations to the Upstate District for hosting a wonderful conference. The decorations, welcome bags and raffle bags were outstanding. It was so good to see so many friends and get hugs in person. It is so impressive to see what all the clubs in or great state accomplished this year and I am proud to say I am GFWC-SC.

I had the honor of handing out the Order of the Jessamine and Honor Roll Certificates. Congratulations to the following:

Order of the Jessamine

Kimberly Allen – GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Elizabeth Renneker – GFWC Women of the `Burg Society
Susan Weiss – GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

Honor Roll

Rhonda Atkinson – GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Valerie Clarke – GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Angela King – GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Noelle Knutson – GFWC Upstate Women's Club
Joy Lind Moore – GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
Tracy Sauer – GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

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

Looking forward to seeing you in Columbia on August 9th.

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Hunke
GFWC-SC Secretary



Message From

GFWC-SC
Secretary



Dear GFWC Sisters: Wow, what a year it has been!! I think I blinked and it has passed that quickly! I hope you all are ready to enjoy sweet summertime.

Please remember to file your taxes if you have not already done so. They are due on the 15th of the 4th month following the end of your club year. For example, if your club year ends on May 31, your taxes are due September 15. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call or text me. I am here to help in any way that I can.

I wish everyone a safe and sunny summer, and I hope to see you all at Summer Board in Columbia in August.

In Federation Love,

Mendy

Mendy Haver
GFWC-SC Treasurer



Message From

GFWC-SC
Treasurer

Daily Bread

An early sweet summer day brings backyard conversations.
Murmur of bees, birdsong bouncing from tree to tree,
Yet still enough to hear tiny creatures churn the living soil.
Eden surrounds and abounds to listen to life wild.
The fluid sun invites breezes to lift fallen green leaves
Scattering them across grass blankets, or better, weeds that feed,
Rearranging them as if the wind had no better thing to do.
Worlds open like a fist, a melody, a door, a flower.
Though the bluest heaven above all, clouds drift
Bringing the weight of air, the whispered promise of rain,
With no expectation or judgment, only to be alive.

Janet Smalley

GFWC-SC Poet Laureate

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

FRIDAY MORNING

GFWC Advancement Area Awards, Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, Presiding

Communications & Public Relations, Tracy Morzuch, Chairman

General II: GFWC York County Woman's Club

General III: GFWC Chapin Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce

Newsletter Award

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

General III: GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

Website Award

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Fundraising Awards, Katie Moydell, Chairman

General I: GFWC Pine Ridge Woman's Club

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill

General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Aiken Woman's Club

- **Rebecca Robbins Award:** GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Leadership Awards, Norma England, Chairman; LEADS, Janet Prince, Chairman

General I: GFWC Golden Strip Woman's Club

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

General III: GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Saxe Gotha Leadership Award: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

LEADS Grows New Leaders Award: GFWC Chapin Woman's Club, GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia, GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray, GFWC Lexington Woman's Club, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce, GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill, GFWC Women's Club of the 'Burg Society, GFWC York County Woman's Club, GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

Introduction of 2025 LEADS Representative: Katie Whitten, GFWC Chapin Woman's Club

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

Membership Awards, Kaye Jones, Chairman

General I: GFWC Pine Ridge Woman's Club
General II: GFWC Sand River Woman's Club
General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce

Presentation of Club Anniversary Certificates

GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club, 10 Years
GFWC Women's Club of Greenville, 10 Years
Magnolia Service Club, 10 Years
GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry, 10 Years
GFWC York County Woman's Club, 15 Years
GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club, 25 Years
GFWC Aiken Woman's Club, 50 Years
GFWC Clinton Federated Woman's Club, 50 Years
GFWC St. George Women's Guild, 55 Years
GFWC Aiken Junior Woman's Club, 60 Years
GFWC Lake Murray-Irmo Woman's Club, 65 Years
GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Rock Hill, 70 Years
GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands, 70 Years
GFWC Winnsboro Woman's Club, 100 Years

Presentation of Member Anniversary Pins

Sue Wharton, GFWC Lexington Woman's Club, 45 Years
Linda Jones, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, 25 Years
Anne Elliott, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, 30 Years
Joyce Thomas, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, 30 Years
Sandra Walter, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, 30 Years
Marilyn Hatley, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, 50 Years
Carole Paveglio, GFWC Sand River Woman's Club, 20 Years
Mary Lou Wallace, GFWC Sand River Woman's Club, 45 Years
Kathy Hogan, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 20 Years
Beth Taylor, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 20 Years
Anne Marie Shepherd, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 30 Years
Marian St. Clair, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 35 Years
Kristin Fields, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 35 Years
Susan Dox, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 40 Years
Monta Avera, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 45 Years
Barbara Cross, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 45 Years
Daryl Hendrix, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 50 Years
Frances Hill, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club, 50 Years
Elise Romano, GFWC Upstate Woman's Club, 25 Years
Donna Anderson, GFWC Upstate Woman's Club, 30 Years
Sandra Czentye, GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill, 15 Years
Sue Hinson, GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill, 15 Years

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

Ann Mauney, GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill, 15 Years
Lois Kirkpatrick, GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill, 45 Years
Anne Redlus, GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry, 50 Years

Net Gain Clubs

GFWC Seneca Junior Woman's Club: 1
GFWC Aiken Woman's Club: 5
GFWC Chapin Woman's Club: 4
GFWC Golden Strip: 2
GFWC Lexington Woman's Club: 10
GFWC Past President's Club: 1
GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill: 6
GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands: 7
GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club: 2
GFWC Winnsboro Woman's Club: 2
GFWC Woman's Club of Charleston: 2
Magnolia Service Club: 2
Dream Makers of GFWC-SC: 1
GFWC Indian Land Women's Club: 16
Total: 63

Sylvia Ayers Membership Award: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Rosemary Rivers Memorial Award: GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society

Honor Clubs

GFWC Upstate Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's Society of Batesburg-Leesville
GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club
GFWC Sand River Woman's Club
GFWC Lake Murray-Irmo Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands
GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society
GFWC York County Woman's Club
GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Rock Hill
GFWC Golden Strip Woman's Club
GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry
GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
GFWC St. George Women's Guild

Club Rating Sheet Awards

Category I, Myrtis Flanagan Award: GFWC Golden Strip
Category II, Jean T. Kight Award: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands
Category III, Lavonia V. Hendrix Award: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club
All Categories, Mrs. John R. Wolff Award: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

District Rating Sheet Awards

Past President's Club: Midlands District

Legislation & Public Policy Awards, Carrie Zimmerman for Peggy Aun, Chairman

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

Hughes Legislation Silver Award: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

GFWC Community Service Program Awards, Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President

Arts & Culture, Elizabeth Renneker, Chairman

General I: GFWC St. George Women's Guild

General II: GFWC Aiken Women's Club

General III: GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry

Junior: GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Chapin Woman's Club

Civic Engagement & Outreach, Wendy Bell, Chairman

General I: GFWC Pine Ridge Woman's Club

General II: GFWC Upstate Woman's Club

General III: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Aiken Woman's Club

Lexington Woman's Club Public Affairs Award: GFWC Chapin Woman's Club

Education and Libraries, Carrie Zimmerman for Cathy Huddle, Chairman

General I: GFWC St. George Women's Guild

General II: GFWC Sand River Woman's Club

General III: GFWC Charleston Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Upstate Woman's Club

Marie J. Hammond Silver Award: GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry

Debbie Alexander Adult Education Award: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

ESO Pins and Certificates, Carol Berenbrok, Chairman

ESO Star Level, Lynn Shore

ESO Star Level, Phyllis Sippel

ESO Torch Level, Mel Smith

ESO Century Level, Mel Smith

ESO Century Level, Mary Jean Burroughs

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

Environment, Carrie Zimmerman for Connie Holston, Chairman

General I: GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society

General II: GFWC Aiken Woman's Club

General III: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

Palmetto Pride Environment Achievement Award: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

Health & Wellness, Dianne McCarty, Chairman

General I: GFWC St. George Women's Guild

General II: GFWC Woman's Club of the Midlands

General III: GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

Women's History & Resource Center, Karen Adams, Chairman

General I: GFWC Golden Strip Woman's Club

General II: GFWC Upstate Woman's Club

General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club

Creativity Award Entry: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

FRIDAY EVENING

Awards & Recognitions, Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, Presiding

GFWC Creative Writing Contest, Jackie Boland, Chairman

Emma R. Lipscomb Memorial Writing Award: Linda George Sweatt, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

GFWC-SC Creative Writing Awards, Installations

Gold: Shelli Pue, GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

Silver: Gail Elfert, GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club

Bronze: Tonja Ivey, GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

GFWC Photography Contest, Dianne Noda, Chairman

Our World Up Close: Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Natural Wonders: Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Reflections: Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Living the Volunteer Spirit: Christine Woodworth, Chapin Woman's Club

GFWC-SC Scrapbook Contest, Elizabeth Renneker, Chairman

Scrapbook Contest Award: GFWC Aiken Woman's Club

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

GFWC Community Service Program Awards, Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, Presiding

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention, Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President for Connie Lawson, Chairman

General I: GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Rock Hill
General II: GFWC Upstate Woman's Club
General III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Junior: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce

GFWC Junior Special Project: Advocates for Children, Courtney Evans, Chairman

General I: GFWC Golden Strip Woman's Club
General II: GFWC Sand River Woman's Club
General III: GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
Junior: GFWC Greater Greenville Junior Woman's Club
Creativity Award Entry: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce

GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, Blackmon, Director

The Blue Flame Award: GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray
The Torch Award: GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Rock Hill
The Ember Award: The Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

Junior Silver Certificate Awards, Michelle Blackmon, Director

Bobbie L Lowe Junior Award: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Mary Plyler Memorial Junior Award: GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia
Jan W Hadwin/Beth Broom Junior Award: GFWC Woman's Club of Cayce
Ann Borris/Augusta Wolff Memorial Junior Cancer Award: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Susan Abelkop Junior Membership Award: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Junior Spirit Award: GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

SATURDAY MORNING

Contribution Sheet Silver Awards, Mendy Haver, Treasurer

Keith Unger Memorial Award: GFWC Palmetto Woman's Club
GFWC-SC Headquarters Fund: GFWC Palmetto Woman's Club
Janet B Agnew Award: GFWC Lake-Murray Woman's Club
Clubwoman Magazine Award: GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club
Princa M Wright Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: GFWC Palmetto Woman's Club
Virginia 'Sissy' Welch Award: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Ruby H McManus Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: Midlands District
Progress Foundation Award: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Jan Hadwin Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: GFWC Palmetto Woman's Club

2024 AWARDS PRESENTED AT GFWC-SC CONVENTION APRIL 2025

Caroline Mahaffey Hope Award: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Kate T Davis Memorial Award: GFWC Chapin Junior Woman's Club
Endowment Fund Award: GFWC Lake Murray Irmo Woman's Club

SATURDAY EVENING

GFWC-SC President's Special Project, President Carswell for Chairman Kaye Gerrald

Birds of a Feather: GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry
Carolina Wren: GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
Sparrow: GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray

Outstanding Club Awards

General Cup Awards

Category I: No Submissions

Category II: GFWC Aiken Woman's Club

Category III: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

President's Award of Excellence: GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Rosemary Rivers Memorial Award: GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society

Individual Awards and Recognitions

Class of 2025 Honor Roll:

Angela King, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Rhonda Atkinson, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Tracy Sauer, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Valerie Clarke, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Joy Lind Moore, GFWC Lexington Woman's Club
Noelle Knutson, GFWC Upstate Woman's Club

Class of 2025 Order of the Jessamine:

Elizabeth Renneker, GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society
Kimberly Allen, GFWC North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club
Sarah Weiss, GFWC Lexington Woman's Club

Carol Vann Rowland & Susan Vann Haynes Junior Clubwoman of Achievement Award: Courtney Evans, GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

GFWC Woman of Distinction: Bertina Floyd, GFWC Chapin Woman's Club

GFWC-SC WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

Bertina (Bert) Floyd

Chapin Woman's Club is proud to nominate Bertina Floyd as a GFWC-SC Woman of Distinction. Her contributions to our club, her church, the community, her career, and her family set her apart. She consistently demonstrates courage and leadership in every area. Known as Bert among friends, she approaches situations calmly and thoughtfully, making her an inspiring individual.



FAMILY

Bert and her husband, Charles, married in 1966 and built a beautiful family with their two daughters, Luci and Jamie. Their 57 years of marriage exemplified love, devotion and commitment. Other couples hoped that some of their magic would rub off on them. They set a beautiful example for their children, grandchildren and all who knew them.

CAREER

Bert graduated from University of South Carolina in 1968 – the same day as Charles received his Master's degree. She began her professional life as a teacher while Charles served in the Army and went to Viet Nam. After Charles returned, he returned to USC to work on his doctorate, and Bert changed careers and entered the insurance industry.

Bert was a trailblazer and broke down barriers for other women during her career. In 1973, Bert joined the Insurance Company of North America, which later merged with Connecticut General Insurance Company to form CIGNA, whose property & casualty division was later bought by ACE Insurance. During her 31 years with INA/CIGNA/ACE, Bert held management positions in Columbia, South Carolina; Jackson, Mississippi; Kansas City; and Philadelphia. While working, she attended graduate school and earned a master's degree from Baker University in Kansas in 1990. For the last 14 years of her career, Bert was Vice President of International Claims Service, traveling extensively overseas to arrange service delivery for U.S. multinational companies insured by her company.

During her professional career, she was an active member of the National Association of Insurance Women International, holding offices at the local, state, regional and national levels, and she was named National Claims Professional of the Year. Bert served on the Board of Directors of the Insurance Scholarship Foundation of America and is Past President of that national organization, which awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving students each year. The Chapin Woman's Club scholarship program has benefited from the experience she gained there.

COMMUNITY

In 2004, Charles retired from his teaching position, and Bert, who had planned to work a few more years, saw how much fun he was having, so she retired, too. They relocated from their home in southern New Jersey to Chapin, where Charles had taught school back in the 70's and where they had spent many pleasant hours sailing on Lake Murray.

After retirement, her contributions to her new community included serving as chairperson of the Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition. She was an active participant in South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's Lake relicensing process in the mid 2000's. As a member of the Community Associations Institute, which is an organization for HOA volunteer leaders and property managers, Bert served on the South Carolina State Board of Directors for 6 years, serving as State Vice President 2015-17. After many years, Bert recently retired from serving as President of her neighborhood's HOA Board of Directors but remains active in the HOA and community.

CHURCH

Bert loves reading, golfing, and playing the piano. She can be found on the golf course once or twice a week, and she plays the piano most every Sunday at the early service at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church. She is an active and vital member of the parish. She has held leadership positions on the Vestry and the Thrift Shop Management Board. When something needs to be accomplished in the church, St Francis of Assisi turns to Bert to contribute to the changes.

GFWC-CHAPIN WOMAN'S CLUB

Bert joined Chapin Woman's Club in 2010 and has served on the board for many years. She has served as Parliamentarian for six different presidents. She has also chaired the Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

To say she served as parliamentarian doesn't adequately convey the impact she has had on Chapin Woman's Club. Her steady approach to challenges made her a stabilizing force when chaos would have otherwise reigned. Bert helped lead the club through a painful transition in 2019. She was the constant and consistent voice in our ear that encouraged us to always take the high road and to be kind. Her impact can't be emphasized enough.

Bert embodies the GFWC motto "Living the Volunteer Spirit" and lives the words of our Collect for Clubwomen. Bertina Floyd is uniquely deserving of the title "Woman of Distinction."

General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina
127th Annual Convention Minutes
Hilton Garden Inn, Rock Hill, SC
April 25-27, 2025

GFWC South Carolina President Suzanne Carswell called the 127th Annual Convention of GFWC South Carolina, to order on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11:07 a.m.

Jo Anne Hooper of the Woman's Club of Rock Hill provided the opening inspiration and invocation.

The Colors were presented by the Rock Hill Police Department Color Guard. The National Anthem was sung by Serenity Anderson, a 9th grade student from Rock Hill High School and member of the RHHS Chorus. Elizabeth Renneker, Women of the 'Burg, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Tracy Morzuch, Woman's Club of Rock Hill, led the Collect for Clubwomen, and Courtney Evans, GFWC-SC Director-elect of Junior Clubs, led the National Pledge to Junior Clubwomen.

Donna Anderson, Upstate District President, introduced welcome speaker Andy Clinton, CEO of Visit York County.

Kristin Fields, GFWC-SC Protocol Chairman, Introduced the Officers, Past Presidents, Past Directors of Junior Clubs, Members Serving on the GFWC Board of Directors and Special Guests.

Courtney Evans, Credentials Chairman, gave the Preliminary Credentials Report. Attachment #1

President Carswell declared a Quorum was present.

Marian St. Clair, GFWC-SC Parliamentary Advisor, presented the Convention Rules and Procedures as printed on page 12 of the Convention Program. The rules and procedures were adopted. Attachment #2

Janet Prince, GFWC-SC Special Assistant to the President, presented the Convention Program and moved the adoption of the Convention Program as corrected, and subject to any additional necessary changes. The Convention Program was adopted. Attachment #2

President Carswell offered greetings, noting that 22 states were holding conventions over the weekend, and asked members to make the most of their time together over the weekend.

Jo Anne Hooper, Woman's Club of Rock Hill, provided inspiration and grace.

The meeting was recessed for lunch from 12:25 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC Signature Program Chair & GFWC-SC Second Vice President, introduced guest speaker Sara Barber, Executive Director of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA).

Kaye Hunke, GFWC-SC Secretary, gave the Report of the Board of Directors Meeting. Attachment #3

Marian St. Clair, Parliamentary Advisor, read the section from the Bylaws on Resolutions. Attachment #4

In the absence of Chairman Caroline Mahaffey, Janet Watkins, Resolutions Committee Member, read the Resolution on Gun Safety printed on page 21 of the Convention Program, which was proposed by the Junior Woman's Club of Columbia and had been endorsed by the GFWC-SC Board of Directors.
Attachment #2

Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC-SC Second Vice President, presided over the Presentation of Awards.
Attachment #5

Thank you notes were written as a GFWC-SC Service Project to firefighters who battled the spring fires in the Upstate, which will be mailed to participating Fire Departments supplied by the South Carolina Fire Service.

The Convention was recessed at 2:22 p.m.

The Convention was called to order by President Carswell at 7p.m. for the "In Full Bloom, Junior Celebration" Dinner.

Tracey Harris, Junior Woman's Club of Lake Murray, offered grace. A buffet dinner was served.

Michelle Blackmon, Director of Junior Clubs, introduced the speaker, Deborah DePaoli from the Institute for Child Success.

Carrie Zimmerman, GFWC-SC Second Vice President, presided over the Presentation of Awards.
Attachment #5

Second Vice President Zimmerman then introduced a video greeting recorded by GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey.

Director Blackmon presided over the GFWC-SC Director of Junior Cubs Special Project Awards and the Junior Silver Certificate Awards. Attachment #5

The meeting, recessed at 8:55 p.m., was followed by a successful Junior Purse Auction for the Director's Travel Fund.

GFWC-SC Convention Resumes, Saturday, April 26, 2025

President Carswell called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Susan Lee, Woman's Club of Cayce, provided the inspiration.

Courtney Evans, Credentials Chairman, provided the Preliminary Credentials report. Attachment #6

President Carswell declared a Quorum present and noted the first order of business would be Amendments to the GFWC South Carolina Bylaws. She announced that in the absence of Chairman Juliet Casper, the Amendments would be presented by Bylaws Committee Member Myrna Loy, and that a printed copy of Amendments could be found on page 16 of the Convention Program. Debate was limited to 10 minutes.

Marian St. Clair, Parliamentary Advisor, read ARTICLE IX, Amendments, Section 1. and Section 2.

In the absence of Chairman Juliet Casper, Myrna Loy, Bylaws Committee Member, presented the Bylaw Amendments as printed in the Call and the Convention Program. Attachment #2

- The first amendment was to the GFWC-SC Constitution, Article III, Membership. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The second amendment was to Article I, Membership, Section 4. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The third amendment was to Article I, Membership, Section 6. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The fourth amendment was to Article I, Membership, Section 7. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The fifth amendment was to Article II, Districts, Section I. The amendment was adopted as amended. Attachment # 7
- The sixth amendment was to Article II, Districts, Section 2. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The seventh amendment was to Article II, Districts, Section 4. Meetings. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The eighth amendment was to Article III, Junior Clubs, Section 1. The amendment was amended and failed. The amendment was amended a second time and failed. The vote on the amendment as presented failed. Attachments #8 & #9
- The ninth amendment was to Article III, Junior Clubs, Section 3. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The tenth amendment was to Article III, Junior Clubs, Section 4. A proposed amendment to the Amendment was determined to be out of order. The amendment was adopted as presented.
- The eleventh and final amendment was to Article VII, Officers, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Program Council, and Boards of Trustees, Section 6. The amendment was adopted as presented.

Secretary Kaye Hunke presented a letter from North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club requesting that Juliet Casper be endorsed to run for GFWC Secretary and noted that the Executive Committee had voted in the affirmative to present the nomination. The endorsement of Juliet Casper to run for GFWC Secretary passed by unanimous vote of the 2025 GFWC South Carolina Convention Body in attendance. Attachment #10

Karen Adams, Women's History & Research Center Chairman, introduced speaker Marian St. Clair, GFWC Women's History & Research Center Chairman.

Secretary Kaye Hunke gave the Report of the Board of Directors Meeting. Attachment #3

President Carswell noted the next order of business would be Resolutions.

Marian St.Clair, Parliamentary Advisor, read the section of the Bylaws on Resolutions. Janet Watkins, Resolutions Committee Member, acting for Chairman Caroline Mahaffey, read the Resolution on Gun Safety that was proposed by the Junior Woman's Club of Columbia and endorsed by the GFWC-SC Board of Directors. Attachment #2

The Resolution on Gun Safety proposed by the Junior Woman's Club of Columbia was adopted as amended. Attachment #11

Mendy Haver, GFWC-SC Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and the Contribution Sheet Silver Awards. Attachments #12 and # 5

President Carswell called for the Standing Committee Reports:

- Elizabeth Herring, Headquarters Committee member, presented the 2025-2026 Headquarters Budget for Chairman Ann Malpass. Attachment #13
- Jeri McCumbee, Conventions & Meetings Committee member, presented the report for Chairman Dolly McDermott. Attachment #14
- Katie Whitten, Finance Committee Chairman, presented the 2025-2026 Budget. Attachment #15
- Myrna Loy, Constitution & Bylaws Committee member, presented the report for Chairman Juliet Casper. Attachment #16
- Kaye Jones, First Vice President and Disaster Relief Committee Chairman, presented reports on Membership and Disaster Relief. Attachment #17 & 18

President Carswell called for the Board of Trustees Reports:

- Tracy Morzuch, Chairman, presented the report of the GFWC-SC Trustees. Attachment #19
- Elizabeth Herring, Chairman, gave the report of the Trustees of the Progress Foundation. Attachment #20

Elizabeth Renneker, Arts & Culture Chairman, and Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, presented a breakout session on personal safety.

President Carswell called for the District President Reports:

- Donna Anderson, Upstate District President, presented her report. Attachment #21
- Susan Lee, Midlands District Vice President, presented the report for Midlands District President Shelli Pue. Attachment #22
- Jeri McCumbee, Coastal District President, presented her report. Attachment #23

President Carswell called for the Officer Reports:

- Michelle Blackmon, Director of Junior Clubs, presented her report. Attachment #24
- Mendy Haver, Treasurer, had no report.
- Kaye Hunke, Secretary, presented her report. Attachment #25
- Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, presented her report. Attachment #26
- Kaye Jones, First Vice President, presented her report. Attachment #27
- Suzanne Carswell, President, presented her report. Attachment #28

Norma England and Jo Anne Hooper conducted the 2025 Memorial Service. Attachment #29

This meeting was recessed at 1:43 p.m.

President Carswell reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. for the “365 Days of Sunshine Celebration.”

The musical entertainer, Jennifer Goree, was introduced. Past GFWC-SC President Sylvia Ayers provided the grace. A buffet dinner was served.

President Carswell introduced a recorded video of Juliet Casper, GFWC Treasurer and member of the North Myrtle Beach Woman’s Club.

President Carswell presented the GFWC-SC Presidents Special Project awards for Chairman Kaye Gerrald. Attachment #5

Michelle Blackmon, Director of Junior Clubs, presented the Junior Cup Award. Attachment #5

Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, presented the General Cup Awards for Category I, II, and III. Attachment #5

President Carswell presented the President's Award of Excellence. Attachment #5

Kaye Jones, First Vice President, presented the Rosemary Rivers Memorial Award. Attachment #5

Kaye Hunke, Secretary, Presented the 2025 Honor Roll and the 2025 Order of the Jessamine Awards. Attachment #5

Michelle Blackmon, Director of Junior Clubs, presented the Carol Vann Rowland & Susan Vann Haynes Junior Clubwoman of Achievement Award. Attachment #5

Kaye Jones, First Vice President, presented the Volunteer of the Year Award. Attachment #5

Carrie Zimmerman, Second Vice President, presented the Woman of Distinction award. Attachment #5

Kaye Jones, First VP, presented the Emma McIntyre Burton Attendance Award to the North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club, for the most members attending convention.

Jeri McCumbee, Coastal District President, and members of the Coastal District, issued the invitation to the 2026 GFWC-SC Convention.

Michelle Blackmon, Director of Junior Clubs, gave her final remarks.

Suzanne Carswell, GFWC SC President gave her final remarks.

Winners of the President's Basket Auction, a fundraiser for the President's Travel Fund, were announced by Fundraising Chairmen Katie Moydell.

Courtney Evans, Credentials Chairman, provided the Final Credentials Report. Attachment #30

Mendy Haver, Treasurer, led the closing song, Let There Be Peace on Earth.

The 127th Annual Convention was adjourned by President Carswell at 8:58 p.m.



Highlights

GFWC-SC Convention April 2025



Click Here To Download Photos
<https://www.studionoda.com/Galleries/GFWC-South-Carolina/2025-Convention-Rock-Hill>

GFWC-SC GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Proposed)

2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR

	Budget	Projected Income/Expense	Proposed Budget	Proposed 2026 vs Projected 2025
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026	
Revenues:				
GFWC-SC Dues:				
General & Juniors (\$27)(G)(Jr) 0(Mem@large) 1100 members	29700.00	28157.00	28157.00	0.00
Heritage (\$16)85				0.00
Juniorettes (\$11)				0.00
Jr. Travel Fund: \$4/Jr.	660.00	516.00	516.00	0.00
GFWC-SC Additional Income:				
Contributions-General Fund	150.00	125.00	150.00	25.00
Contributions - SC Clubwoman	250.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
Contributions-Endowment		175.00		(175.00)
Contributions Jr. Spec Proj		75.00		(75.00)
Contributions Pres. Spec Proj		745.00		(745.00)
Contrib Pres Travel Fundr				
Contribution Augusta Wolfe		50.00		(50.00)
Jr. Travel Fund	1500.00	616.00	1500.00	884.00
President Travel Fund	1500.00	1246.20	1500.00	253.80
Contrib Officer Fundr		100.00		(100.00)
Honor Roll Fundraiser	350.00	175.00	350.00	175.00
Order of the Jessamine	400.00	250.00	400.00	150.00
Women in Business Directory	0.00	500.00	2000.00	1500.00
Interest - General Fund	800.00	1095.44	1400.00	304.56
Interest - Endowment	800.00	1463.16	2000.00	536.84
Interest - Augusta Wolfe (Jr. Travel)	300.00	315.12	300.00	(15.12)
Meetings:				
Convention	2500.00	2000.00	2000.00	0.00
Registration - LEADS Conference	625.00	1015.00	1015.00	0.00
Registration Summer Boards	2000.00	2927.01	2250.00	(677.01)
Registration Winter Boards	2000.00	1680.00	1500.00	(180.00)
Total Revenues:	43535.00	43375.93	45188.00	1812.07
EXPENSES:				
GFWC Dues Paid:				
(\$15)	16500.00	16480.00	16480.00	0.00
Juniorettes (\$10)	0.00			0.00
Southern Region Dues	30.00	30.00	30.00	0.00
Travel, Meetings, Conferences, Conventions & Orientation:				0.00
Travel - President *	3600.00	5600.00	3600.00	(2000.00)

Travel - Director of Jrs. **	2200.00	4502.66	2200.00	(2302.66)
Travel - First Vice Pres	1000.00	333.40	1000.00	666.60
Travel - Second Vice Pres	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
Travel - Secretary	750.00	750.00	750.00	0.00
Travel-Treasurer	750.00	750.00	750.00	0.00
Travel -Outgoing President every other year	1000.00		0.00	0.00
Travel - Outgoing Dir. of Jrs. Every other year	1000.00		0.00	0.00
Leadership Orientation - Incoming Pres.	0.00	700.00	700.00	0.00
Leadership Orientation - Incoming Jr. Dir.	0.00		700.00	700.00
GFWC LEADS Program Participant	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
				0.00
GFWC-SC Expenses:				0.00
Meetings:				0.00
Convention Expenses	3200.00	3476.78	3500.00	23.22
Summer Board Expenses	2000.00	2119.58	2000.00	(119.58)
Winter Board Expenses	2000.00	100.00	500.00	400.00
LEADS Conference Expenses	400.00	1280.60	2000.00	719.40
Program Council	200.00			0.00
Convention Awards	550.00	550.00	750.00	200.00
				0.00
Expenses - Office of:				0.00
President	240.00	907.43	250.00	(657.43)
Junior Director	240.00	240.00	250.00	10.00
First Vice President	190.00	190.00	200.00	10.00
Second Vice President	190.00	190.00	300.00	110.00
Secretary	140.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Treasurer (QuickBooks renewal & check products)	240.00	190.52	240.00	49.48
Operating Expenses:				
Liability Insurance (HQ's)	700.00	700.00	700.00	0.00
Review of Financial Statements	750.00	750.00	750.00	0.00
SC Sec of State Charitable Funds Reg	51.85	51.85	51.85	0.00
SC Sec State Raffle Registration	51.85	51.85	51.85	0.00
South Carolina Clubwoman	1971.30	2000.00	2500.00	500.00
Surety/ Bonding Insurance (3 yr)	240.00	250.00	0.00	(250.00)
Website	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
Website Redesign and update			700.00	700.00
ESO pins	0.00		50.00	50.00
Special Expenses:				0.00
Past President's Pin	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
GFWC sponsorships	1500.00	1059.00	1500.00	441.00
Total Disbursements:	43535.00	45153.67	45153.70	0.03
(Over)/Under Budget	0.00	(1777.74)	34.30	1812.04

GFWC-SC Headquarters Budget 2025-2026

INCOME

Apartment Rentals	\$28,800.00
Outside Rentals	\$2,700.00
GFWC-SC General Fund share of Liability Insurance	\$700.00
Fundraisers	\$16,200.00
Tablecloth and Portable Bar Rental	\$275.00
Total Income	\$48,675.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Russell Massey Insurance - Headquarters Insurance/Liability	\$7,000.00
Dominion Energy	\$9,500.00
City of Columbia Water/Sewer	\$3,000.00
Lawn Service	\$3,000.00
Rocket Pest Control	\$500.00
Airport Heating and Cooling Contract	\$800.00
Maintenance and Repairs	\$21,300.00
Give Smart Online Auction	\$2,295.00
Spectrum Phone/Wi Fi	\$1,080.00
Postage	\$200.00
Total Disbursements	\$48,675.00

SC Federation of Woman's Clubs Progress Foundation Report April 25-26, 2025

Since Winter Board, the SC Federation of Woman's Clubs Progress Foundation has reviewed the GFWC-SC Bylaws and submitted proposed changes for consideration.

Clubs that received SC Federation of Woman's Clubs Progress Foundation grants need to submit their final reports postmarked by July 1, 2025 to Jan Hadwin, SC FWC Progress Foundation Treasurer per section 10 of the grant application form. If a club has any unused funds, return the unused funds to the treasurer, Jan Hadwin. Finally, because of the change to Zoom, clubs receiving checks couldn't give us their thank you notes in person. If you haven't sent us a thank you, please don't forget to do so.

IN LOVING ♥ *Memory*

Memorial Service—GFWC South Carolina, April 26, 2025

Coastal District

Jean Smith—North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Debbie Baldalato—Woman's League of the Lowcountry

Jane Staszak --North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club

Midlands District

Dorothy Jean "Dot" Mathias—Woman's Club of West Columbia

Deborah (Debbie) Peacock Alexander—Lexington Woman's Club

Ann Decell—Lexington Woman's Club

Melissa "Missy" Sue Coleman—Junior Woman's Club of Columbia

Mary Gwendolyn "Gwen" Dowd Campbell—Pine Ridge Woman's Club

Eula Anglin Leaber—Aiken Woman's Club

Upstate District

Constance "Connie" Pike Zdenek—Woman's Club of Rock Hill

"Becky" Pershing Heatherly Hetherington— Once A Week Club

Susan Undari Young---Clinton Federated Woman's

Maria Lock Boineau Macaulay—Paul Hayne Circle

District Conference Meetings

Mark Your Calendars

GFWC-SC
Coastal District
Meeting

Thursday
September 18, 2025
6:30 pm via Zoom

Mark Your Calendars



GFWC - SC
MIDLAND'S
DISTRICT MEETING

Sunday
9/21/25
2pm - 4pm

more details to follow

ATTENTION GFWC-SC UPSTATE DISTRICT CLUBWOMEN

**We've reserved the place!
Now please save the date!**

GFWC-SC UPSTATE DISTRICT MEETING

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 PM

WOMAN'S CLUB OF ROCK HILL CLUBHOUSE
607 AIKEN AVENUE
ROCK HILL, SC 29730

GFWC-SC LEADS

Did you miss out on the **GFWC-SC LEADS** held in February and would still like the opportunity to attend? Well, you are in luck! In conjunction with our upcoming Summer Board Meeting on August 9th at the Hilton Garden Inn, Harbison, we are going to offer a Mini-LEADS on Friday, August 8th. This will be held at our GFWC-SC Headquarters from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The cost is only \$20 and you will hear the majority of what was shared at our full day LEADS. Applications need to be sent to Janet Prince at jhprince@aol.com by July 1, 2025.

If you have any questions contact Janet at jhprince@aol.com or you can call her cell at 803-665-9667.

Leadership

Norma England, GFW-SC Leadership Chairman

The article below was in GFWC News & Notes, but I wanted to share it again, in case some of you did not see it. Hope to see you many of you at our Summer Session in August and at our Mini Leads Workshop!

Norma

Don't be a Boss! Choose to be a Leader!

By: Anne Engelhardt, GFWC Leadership Committee

GFWC is a wonderful volunteer organization that offers all of us so many leadership opportunities. If you want to lead, just step forward and let us know. Have you ever worked with a leader who was more like a boss during your volunteer work? A boss only knows their way of how things are done. She uses her authority to control others and then takes credit for all the good work. A boss places blame on others for breakdowns and doesn't take any responsibility for her own mistakes. A boss can make you feel controlled and unempowered. So, I ask you this question, "Would you want to work with that kind of person again?"

Or have you ever worked with a leader who is positive, encouraging, enthusiastic, and has an open mind to other people's ideas? That kind of leader values your skills and takes a team approach. She gives everyone a voice and hears all opinions. She uses the word "we," not "I," when talking about a project. If things don't go as planned, she takes responsibility and regroups to create a better outcome. She makes you feel empowered and motivated. If that is the type of leader, you want to work with, learn and remember to be that kind of leader yourself.

The choice is yours. Don't be a boss! Choose to be a Leader!

GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA MINI-LEADS 2025 APPLICATION FORM

August 8, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m

GFWC-SC Headquarters

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Club Name: _____ District: _____

Are you interested in leadership positions in your club, district and/or state level?

Yes _____ No _____

On a separate sheet, tell us about YOU!

All local club, district or state offices and/or chairmanships held. Any club/district programs/projects in which you were involved. Positions at the district, state, and/or national level in which you are interested. Interests, hobbies, family and/or description of your leadership style.

Are you willing to share what you have learned with your club/district/state?

Yes _____ No _____

Application with \$20 for Materials and must be postmarked by July 1, 2025, and submitted to:

**Janet Prince – LEADS Chairman
1550 McSwain Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
803-665-9667
jhprince@aol.com**

GFWC-SC Girlfriends Book Club

The GFWC-SC Girlfriends Book Club had a good year in 2024. We added one new pledge member for 2024, increasing our membership to 54 with 28 pledges and 27 members. We had 10 ESO members submit their book reading reports with a total of 507 books, 102,052 pages read and 204,103 minutes read.

Awards were given to the following members:

Star: Lynn Shore and Phyllis Sippel

Torch: Mel Smith

First Century: Mel Smith and Mary Jean Burroughs

If you have not joined yet, please check out Facebook Page – GFWC-SC Girlfriends Book Club. Coming soon, two events for our Book Club. Dates to be announced for Zoom Book Club Meeting to discuss one book. Look for voting on Facebook Page. We are also planning a book collection with details to follow.

Have a great summer and share your favorite summer reading on our Facebook page.



GFWC-SC Photography Contest

The winners of our State Photography Contest were announced at Convention on April 25th. We had 30 wonderful photographs submitted. The winners were Joyce Thomas of North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club and Christine Woodworth of Chapin Woman's Club. Their photographs are now entered in the GFWC contest to be judged in Atlanta at national convention.

Thank you to all who entered. The 2025-26 contest is for photographs taken between January and December 2025. Keep your camera or phone handy and get ready to compete next year!

Dianne Noda

GFWC-SC Photography Contest Chair

GFWC-SC Photography Contest

Bag Ladies for CSPA - Living the Volunteer Spirit
Chris Woodworth, Chapin Woman's Club



A Sand Crab's Feast - Up Close
Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club



Blue Hole - Reflections
Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club



Raven's Eye Awe - Natural Wonders
Joyce Thomas, North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club



Save The Date

St. Jude National Virtual Walk September 27, 2025

Whether you're a seasoned walker or just starting your fitness journey, this virtual walk lets you contribute to life-saving research while taking care of your own health and connecting with a community of women who believe in St. Jude's mission. You can walk solo for some peaceful reflection time, gather your club sisters for a group effort, or even include your family to show your children the importance of helping others.



Your participation sends a powerful message that women stand together for children's health, and every registration fee goes directly toward funding groundbreaking research that's shared freely with hospitals worldwide. Sign up today and be part of something bigger than yourself—because when women come together for a cause, incredible things happen.

GFWC-SC team for St. Jude Virtual Walk. The link below should allow others to sign up for the team.

Join GFWC-SC today!

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team_id=319397&pg=team&fr_id=160944

Volunteer Opportunity! GFWC-SC Portrait Project

President Carswell has made it a priority to reinstate the hanging of past president and junior director portraits at our state headquarters. A committee is needed to take inventory and assess those portraits held in storage at headquarters, determine what might be needed for their conservation, and determine the additional missing portraits needed to complete our 127-year history of state leadership. The committee would also be charged with determining a plan for display, to be presented to the Executive Committee for approval. This is an opportunity for a club Women's History project, or for individuals from multiple clubs working together. If you or your club is interested, please contact Janet Prince, President's Special Assistant, at jhprince@aol.com or (803)665-9667.



GFWC-SC Arts and Culture

All clubs in South Carolina should give themselves "a pat on the back!" Clubs across the great state of South Carolina did some hard, yet fun projects this year. I can't wait to see what each of you are able to accomplish this year.



Project ideas can include:

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

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

B- Be Yourself

I- Illustrate Art

R- Reflect in Art

D- Diverse in ALL Cultures

Your Friend of Federation,

Elizabeth Renneker

GFWC-SC Arts & Culture Chairman

864-316-5310

elizabeth_kendall25@yahoo.com



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

SOUTH CAROLINA

Opportunity for GFWC-SC Civic Engagement and Outreach

Operation Smile has been a project supported by GFWC for many years. This organization helps provide surgical solutions to children throughout the world who are dealing with issues related to cleft palate. There are many ways our clubs can get involved. Here are just a few suggestions:

Please follow this link - [Service Projects | Operation Smile](#) for instructions for how to:

- Make Children's Hospital Gowns – easy to follow pattern from 1 yard of cloth.
- Create Smile Splints- simple arm bands to keep cleft palate patients from pulling at their stitches during critical 24 hours following surgery
- Collect Quilts, Blankets and Afghans
- Collect and supply Child Life Supplies –

INFANT/TODDLER

- Rattles (handheld)
- Stacking cups/toys
- Wood/Plastic/Plush play blocks
- Soft foam balls/textured rubber balls

PRESCHOOL

- Toy Medical Kits (Fisher Price or similar)
- Fisher Price "Little People" (or similar brand) plastic/rubber people, animals and cars
- Baby dolls (variety of skin tones)
- Pull-along style toys
- See-n-Say Toys

SCHOOL AGE

- Matchbox/Hot Wheels style cars/trucks
- Wall mount/inflatable basketball hoop
- Barbie dolls (variety of skin tones)
- Jewelry making bead/string kits



ARTS, CRAFTS & GENERAL USE

- Liquid Bubbles (2 – 4 oz. size)
- Coloring & Activity Books
- Kids ring toss game
- Kids bowling pins and ball
- Building blocks set (medium size)
- Glitter Tube Wand
- Blow-up balls
- Crayons (any size)
- Markers (any size)
- Construction paper
- Rolls of art/easel paper
- Stickers
- Masking tape or scotch tape
- Foam or Carpet play mats
- Large sheets for floor play
- Sanitizing wipes to clean play space

For more information on Child Life Therapy Supplies, or if you have any questions about this list, please contact our team at 1-757-321-7659 or gfwc@operationsmile.org

- Create Smile Bags – Small toiletry bag

Please only include items on this list:

- ~ Small shampoo (.85 to 1.4 oz hotel/travel size, screw-on top preferred)
- ~ Small comb (no rat tailed combs, please)
- ~ Wash cloth, new & unused
- ~ Bar of soap (small hotel/travel size)
- ~ Travel-sized toothpaste (must be at least 6 months from expiration date)
- ~ Individually packaged Child-sized toothbrush
- ~ Small stuffed animal
- ~ 8 or 10 pack box of crayons
- ~ Thin 8.5" x 11" coloring book



There are specific shipping instructions a form to be submitted with donations included at the Operation Smile Link: [Service Projects | Operation Smile](#)

Please contact Operation Smile at 1-757-321-7659 or gfwc@operationsmile.org if you have any questions.

Thank You!

Wendy Bell

GFWC-SC Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman

GFWC-SC Health and Wellness

Women have always been the main caretakers of family and friends - we manage health appointments for ourselves and our family. As Clubwomen we are involved in volunteer activities in our communities - often involving health-related issues.

Please keep up the good work you are doing in these areas. Funding is being cut and those of us who DO will be asked to DO a little bit more.

The GFWC Affiliate Organizations in Health and Wellness are Canine Companions, Heifer International, March of Dimes, Operation Smile, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Campaign and UNICEF USA. Please include these organizations as you plan for your 2025-2026 club year by including them in your programs and supporting them financially. As you probably know by now, I am a Champion for Shot@Life from South Carolina and would love to have another Clubwoman from our State to work for this cause.

Stay Healthy and Well.

Dianne McIntosh McCarty

GFWC-SC Health & Wellness Chairman

803-553-1189





Our state president Suzanne Carswell, has asked me to serve as the chairperson for the state for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service (IDS.) September 27th, as such, a proclamation was secured from our Governor, and a template was developed that any club could fill in and use to have a proclamation in their city. This was sent to all club presidents in the state.

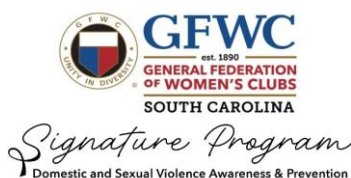
If you remember, in the March Club Woman Magazine (page 15) many ideas were shared of what clubs could do in the eight focus areas under the domestic violence umbrella for the IDS and there is a wealth of information on the GFWC website. Today I'd like to focus on Human trafficking and why it is so important. The state's Human Trafficking Taskforce annual report last year showed that over 90% of South Carolina's human trafficking victims were children or teenagers. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division identified nearly 500 suspected minor trafficking victims just last year and I'm sure it is much higher.

As a member of the state's Human Trafficking Taskforce, it's paramount to me that we know and raise awareness about how our digital world is influencing how predators find their victims. Many times, it's someone that they meet online. They're being groomed, and they meet them online and then they decide to meet up for whatever reason. They say things like, "Your parents are too strict. If you come to stay with me, I'll let you do whatever you want, and these kids don't know what they're getting into. They think, Oh, I'm in love with this person and I want to go be with them.

To keep our kids as safe as possible, we need to raise awareness and educate parents how vital it is to keep a close eye on their kids' social media activity. Keep track of who they're speaking to and what sites they're using. It's also important to have open conversations with their child about sex, human trafficking, and consent in order to make them as aware as possible of the world around them. That's why I'm promoting [TraffickProofSC](#) to educate teens in our state about the threats and realities of human trafficking. Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina is a main focus area within the State's plan to address the crime.

It's always gut-wrenching to deal with trafficking victims, but it's especially horrific when the victim is just a child. Sadly, per the state's report, underage trafficking victims are often exploited by their own family members. In that situation, we need a place for them to go and there's only one shelter for underage trafficking victims in the state, the only remaining options aren't suitable for trafficking victims. These are severely damaged children.

Your club may want to join others in advocating for a shelter to house these minors, there's currently just one shelter in the entire state that is authorized to host underage human trafficking victims, it has 15 beds. In his budget request for this year, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson asked lawmakers for funds to expand emergency shelter access for the youngest survivors of human trafficking. Some nonprofits also hope to open emergency shelters for child and teen trafficking survivors, but that's not an easy process – and one of the biggest challenges is securing money to do it.



2024-2026 – Advancement Plans & Special Projects
GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention, Connie Lawson – cslawsonusa@aol.com

Safe Passage

At the 127th Annual GFWC SC Convention, we collected items for Safe Passage. Safe Passage is a non-profit that provides advocacy and therapeutic services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse/neglect in York, Chester, Lancaster, and Union Counties. We were also honored to have Adrienne Y. Woods, Executive Director of Safe Passage Inc. to join us for lunch on Friday. Members of the GFWC Women of the 'Burg Society and I delivered all of the items to Safe Passage on Saturday afternoon and enjoyed a tour of the facility. Thank you again, GFWC SC, for showing up and showing out again!

Carrie Zimmerman

GFWC-SC Second Vice President





**OFFICIAL CALL
to
GFWC South Carolina
Summer Board of Directors Meeting & Summer General Session**

Saturday, August 9, 2025

**Hilton Garden Inn
434 Columbiana Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29212**

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:15 a.m. GFWC-SC Board of Directors Meeting

GFWC-SC By-Laws Article VII - Section 3. The Board of Directors of GFWC-SC shall consist of the Executive Committee, the District Presidents, District Officers, the Special Assistant to the President, the Director-elect of Junior Clubs, the Past State Presidents who are residents of South Carolina, Community Service Programs Chairmen, Special Appointments Chairmen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the GFWC-SC Scholarship Fund, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Progress Foundation, Chairman of the Constitution and By-laws Committee, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Headquarters Committee, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and the Presidents of Clubs, either direct or affiliated, or their appointees.

10:00 a.m. Call to Order Summer Board Session

Report from Board of Directors Meeting, Reporting Information Q & A, Updates from District Presidents, Information on 2026 Winter Session and 2026 Convention, Information on LEADS and MORE!

Muffins, pastries & beverages will be available during the General Session

SPEAKER: SPEAKER: Terasa M. Lott, Midlands District Director, Cooperative Extension, Clemson University, will speak on 'Flora and Feathers: How Native Plants Support Birds.' Plan to come and learn what you can do in your own landscape to help nurture our birds and butterflies.

SERVICE PROJECT: We will be collecting for Sister Care, Domestic Violence Shelter. You will also find an option to make a monetary contribution. Please see Sister Care's wish list on the next page.

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

Junior Board Meeting

A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn at a *special* group rate of **\$129 + tax & fees** for a room with 2 Queen beds. Cut-off date to reserve a room is **July 26.**

To reserve a room, contact Meetings and Convention Chairman Dolly McDermott, dollymcdermott@aol.com phone (301) 466-9632. Give Dolly your name & phone number and she will reserve your room. Dolly will send the hotel a room list & send you a confirmation.

Registration Information

Summer Session Registration Fee: \$25

**Early bird ends July 17th at midnight and late registration ends Aug 1st at midnight.
(Late fee registration is \$15 and accepted only if space is available.)**

All Registration will be done via **Zeffy**. The link is also on the GFWC-SC website. Follow the steps:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/gfwc-sc-2025-summer-session-2>

Sistercare School Supply List



- Bookbags (kids, tweens, and teens)
- Composition notebooks
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils (all brands and colors) as well as classic #2 pencils
- Tissue Boxes
- Pencil bags
- Scissors
- Pens (Red, Blue and Black)
- Highlighters
- Elmer's glue sticks
- Washable markers
- Earbuds
- Flash cards
- Hand Sanitizer
- Loose leaf notebook paper (Wide ruled)
- Visa Gift Cards to purchase books for high school students
- Small-medium 3 ring binders (all colors)
- Large 3 ring binders
- Binder dividers with tabs
- Protractors
- Graphing Calculators for high school students (TI-84)

Thank you for supporting Sistercare and the students we serve!



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 8	Mini Leads Seminar at GFWC-SC Headquarters at 1511 Laurel Street, Columbia
August 8	GFWC-SC Executive Committee Meeting
August 9	GFWC-SC Board of Directors Meeting
August 9	GFWC-SC Summer Session
August 21-24	GFWC Board of Directors Meeting, Hilton Salt Lake City Center Salt Lake City, Utah
September 27	GFWC International Day of Service
October 3-31	Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 16-19	GFWC Southern Region Conference, Huntsville, Alabama Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville
October 19-25	GFWC Advocates for Children Week
December 10	GFWC Holiday Reception, 1734 N Street, Washington, DC

