

GFWC South Carolina

CLUBWOMAN

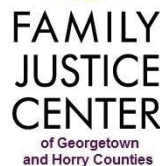
MAGAZINE



sccadvasa

South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Member Organizations



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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

September 2025 | Volume 83 | 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	2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents
3-11	Messages From GFWC-SC Executive Committee Message from GFWC-SC Chaplin GFWC-SC Poet Laureate
12-21	GFWC-SC Jennie Award Recipient Is Your Flock Looking a Little Sparse Creative Writing President’s Special Project Highlights From Summer Board Two Meaningful Ways to Make a Difference This Fall Juniors’ Special Project
22-31	GFWC International Day of Service Increase Your Social Media Savvy GFWC Newsletter and Website Contest Palmetto Pride Community Service Programs Leads 2025
32-38	14th Annual Christmas Stocking Extravaganza GFWC Southern Region Conference Dates to Remember scadvasa Member Organizations QR Codes

2024-2026 GFWC-SC Executive Committee & District Presidents

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

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

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

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

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

Director of Junior Clubs: Michelle Blackmon
178 Foxworth Dr., Lexington, SC 29702
mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com 803 730-7732

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



What a joy it was to recognize Mrs. Bobbie Sox as our GFWC South Carolina Jennie Award recipient at our Summer Session in August. Bobbie's over half century of dedication and selfless service to GFWC and her community serves as an example to us all and makes her immensely deserving of this recognition. I hope you'll read the heartfelt words Lexington Woman's Club wrote in their nomination, found further in this magazine.



At summer session, we learned from Speaker Terasa Lott about the important role native plants play in supporting birds and wildlife in our local environments. Terasa kindly provided us with some statistical highlights of her talk, and these can be found later in this publication. We tend to believe that problems such as the loss of 3 billion birds are simply too large for us to address, and that our individual, small efforts can't possibly make a difference. But as clubwomen, if there is one thing we should know, it is that every intentional act makes an impact and, that in combination with the efforts of clubwomen from across our state and nation, that impact is amplified to create real and lasting change.

Michelle and I recently returned from the GFWC Board of Directors' meeting in Salt Lake City, where we gained a wealth of new and valuable ideas and information that we will be sharing going forward. One thing that was emphasized is the importance of succession planning in ensuring the health and vibrancy of our federation. Therefore, look for more information about that from us going forward, and possibly even in next year's LEADS.

The International Day of Service, focused on GFWC's Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, will be here before we know it. 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. I look forward to seeing your creative projects highlighted in social media posts.

As your club kicks off your new year, I encourage you to cherish the relationships you are creating and strengthening with new club members and established friends. Our sisterhood is truly the heart of our clubs. So, here's to a new year of sisterhood, service and impact in our communities!

In Federation Love,

Suzanne

**Suzanne Carswell
GFWC-SC President**





It was so wonderful to see your smiling faces at summer board where we learned about the importance of native plants and celebrated our Jennie winner, Mrs Bobbie Sox. I am sure we all agree she is just the most deserving lady. Congratulations Bobbie!

For the cooler fall days ahead here are some fantastic outdoor activities, parks, and events in South Carolina—perfect for kids to enjoy fresh air and unplugged fun:



Featured Parks & Outdoor Spots for Kids

Lynches River County Park Canopy Walk

A unique tree-top trail through Pee Dee forests with sky bridges—great for curious kids and free to explore.

Aiken State Park

Offers nature trails, a playground, picnic areas, boating (canoes), fishing, bird watching, geocaching, and even swimming—lots of options for a day off screens.

Edisto Beach State Park (Edisto Island)

Explore accessible hiking and biking trails winding through maritime forests, surf fishing, birding, picnicking, and a great interpretive learning center with nature exhibits.

Goodale State Park (Camden)

Entry is free, and it offers canoe trails through cypress forests, a scenic 140-acre lake—perfect for paddling adventures and nature immersion.

Brookgreen Gardens (Murrells Inlet)

Not free, but a phenomenal outdoor destination—combine sculpture gardens, botanical paths, wildlife trails, and a Lowcountry zoo for an immersive day outside.

Outdoor Festivals & Seasonal Events

Fall on the Farm at Stewart Farms (Enoree, near Spartanburg)

From Sept 27 to Nov 1, weekends feature a pumpkin patch, tractor and wagon rides, a Peanuts-themed corn maze, and a nighttime maze. Entry is free; activities and pumpkins are pay-per-use.

Family-Friendly Fall Festivals Statewide

- Upper South Carolina State Fair (Greenville region): Enjoy carnival rides, petting zoos, and family fun in a festive fall setting.
- South Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair (Seneca): Takes place late September with entertainment, craft vendors, and youth livestock shows perfect for kids.

Unique Nature Events at State Parks

Many state parks offer nature-based programs, Jr. Ranger activities, and educational sessions designed especially for kids. Great for combining fun and learning outdoors.

Urban & Coastal Outings

- Charleston Area: Lucrative for young nature lovers—from the playground and nature paths at James Island County Park, outdoor exhibits at the Caw Caw Interpretive Center, to exploring the scenic Folly Beach Pier.
- Edisto Island: Ideal for beach walks, wildlife watching, biking scenic paths, and enjoying the quiet beauty of a coastal Lowcountry escape.

Bonus Free Outdoor Adventures & Statewide Highlights

- Citadel Dress Parade (Charleston): Witness South Carolina cadets marching in grand formation—historical and fascinating.
- Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge: Walk or bike across this impressive span with sweeping views of Charleston Harbor.
- Rock Hill Velodrome: Watch thrilling bicycle races at this outdoor speed track—often free to spectators.
- Falls Park on the Reedy (Greenville): Stroll by waterfalls and scenic gardens; a relaxing, free centerpiece right in downtown.

- Kids in Parks TRACK Trails: A national self-guided treasure-hunt style trail system—print the activity sheets or go digital to earn prizes while exploring.

Some of kids' favorite outdoor activities include going to Owens Field Park in Columbia, playing basketball, walking or riding bikes around the Old Mill in Lexington and hiking at Table Rock. We also really enjoy Saturday mornings at Soda City. I hope you and the little ones in your lives make many outdoor memories this fall and that your clubs are all able to promote, Be the Spark.

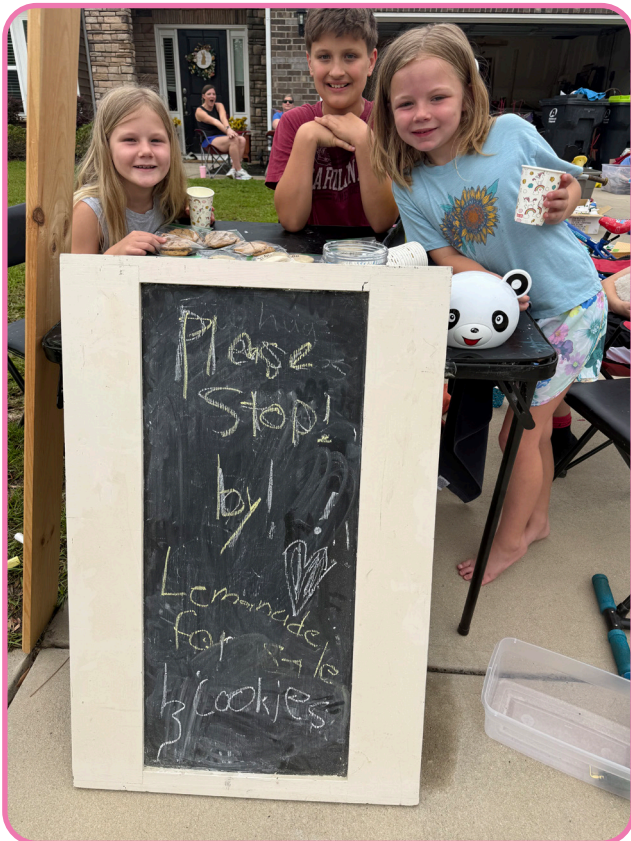
"Kids don't remember their best day of television."

Stay bold, stay bright—

Be the Spark,

Michelle

Michelle Blackmon
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs



JWC Lake Murray kiddos enjoy outdoor time at a pop up lemonade stand.

*Congratulations,
Michelle!*



We're so proud of you for winning the Millie Crom
Award for Excellence in Junior State Leadership -
Platinum Level at convention in Atlanta!
Your dedication, hard work, and excellence truly shine.
What an incredible achievement—well deserved!

Message From GFWC-SC President-elect



Hello ladies! I hope you are staying cool and enjoying the last days of summer...even though the heat in SC will continue into fall, it is nice to look forward to autumn!

I was so glad to see so many at Summer Board and missed those of you who could not be there – it was a great meeting packed with valuable information and fun surprises! District meetings are coming up and I encourage each of you to attend your district meeting. Last year, the district meetings were easily the best I have attended, and I look forward to this year's meetings. Here are the dates so please mark your calendar and plan on attending:

Coastal District – Thursday, September 18th at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Midlands District – Sunday, September 21st at 2:00 pm at The Chandelier Room on Gervais Street

Upstate District - Sunday, October 12th at 2:00 pm at The Woman's Club of Rock Hill House

Contact your District President for any questions or additional information.

Membership is critical to any organization, and your club is no exception. It is crucial to bring in new members as well as keep the ones you have!

To get new members, hold membership drives, invite people you think would like to be in a club to join you for a meeting, & make sure you include information on how to join your club every time to publicize the great work you do.

Just as important is keeping the members we have – keep your ear on the pulse of your club and do not let things simmer. Address issues quickly and fairly and do not forget, I am here for you. The Executive Committee is here for you. As always, invite us to your meetings and fundraisers and we will do our best to attend.

One way I am working to get new clubs is to approach existing women's clubs to see if there is an interest in joining our federation. If you know of a woman's club who is not in our federation, please send me all information you have, and I will be glad to reach out to them. There are many great women's groups out there and just maybe some will want to join us!

Here Comes the Sun News & Notes is a MEMBERSHIP newsletter to spotlight what your club is doing, pass on information from GFWC, and spread the word to our state federation about our club women. Please get information to me to add to this newsletter – I need to have it by October 5 to get in the October edition.

And finally, I am honored to serve as your President-elect. I am in the process of filling positions for my administration, and I need **YOU** to let me know what you would like to do please! We need members from across the state and every district so please, speak up!

In Federation Love,

Kaye

**Kaye Jones
GFWC-SC President-Elect**

Message From

GFWC-SC Second Vice President



Hello fellow Clubwomen!

It is that time of year again to start thinking about projects, reporting and membership recruitment! We had “many hats” reporting at Summer Board on different projects and suggestions from our fantastic chairmen. This officer also held a Presidents Institute on August 27, 2025 to review the importance of using the checklist that is on line for your club year. Presidents will receive information via email from this meeting.

We will hold a reporting workshop on zoom, Wednesday, November 19, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm. This workshop will help clubs know what to report and discuss the importance of reporting to document all the good works that your club has completed! The zoom link will be sent to presidents and chairmen.

This officer continues to encourage clubs to make sure that we have correct emails for all Clubwomen. Kathie Walker is our database coordinator wfwkew@comporium.net It is SUPER important to keep her updated with changes!

Thank each and every one of you for all the good work you do. Thank you to all the clubs that have signed up for GFWC International Day of Service and I look forward to working with all of you.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

In Federation Love,

Carrie

Carrie Zimmerman
GFWC-SC Second Vice President



Message From
GFWC-SC Secretary



Happy Fall! I sure am enjoying this cooler weather. I hope everyone had a great summer and was able to spend some quality time with family.

It was so good to see so many familiar faces at our Summer Session. It is always great to catch up with my club sisters across the state. Our speaker was great and gave us lots of tips for attracting the right eco balance in our own backyards.

I have a busy Fall planned and look forward to seeing many of you at Southern Region in October and the upcoming District meetings.

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

In Federation Love,

Kaye

Kaye Hunke
GFWC-SC Secretary

Fall invites us to pause. The turning leaves remind us that change can be beautiful, and that letting go can make space for something new. In this season, we are called to slow down, to notice the richness around us, and to carry that sense of abundance into the way we serve others.

Volunteering in the fall feels like an extension of nature's own rhythm—offering warmth as the days grow cooler, extending kindness as light grows shorter, and sharing presence when the world feels hurried. Our giving does not need to be grand to be meaningful; even the smallest gestures, like a single leaf, contribute to a greater tapestry of care.

As we move together into this season, may we carry a spirit of grace: willing to release what no longer serves us, open to the needs before us, and grateful for the simple gifts of community and connection.

Susan Lee

GFWC-SC Chaplain

Message From GFWC-SC Treasurer



Happy Fall!!! I hope everyone had a relaxing and fun filled summer! Now it's back to routines and schedules.

Fall also means dues! Annual dues shall be paid to the GFWC-SC Treasurer on or before the first day of November. Clubs should pay their dues on time to earn points on the rating sheet, and to be eligible for Progress Foundation grants.

Dues have not changed this year, they are still the same as follows:

Category	Per Member
General Clubs	\$27
Junior Clubs	\$31
Members at Large	\$27
Heritage Clubs	\$16
Juniorette Clubs	\$11

Please also remember to file your annual return with the IRS, and to register with the South Carolina Secretary of State.

Please reach out to me if I can be of any assistance with your dues or taxes, or any other questions you may have.

In Federation Love,

Mendy

Mendy Haver
GFWC-SC Treasurer

Aftersummer

We fall for fall
every time.

When resilient trees and resurgent blooms and verdant meadows begin to slumber,
Drifting toward exalted golden beauty mirrored by soft streams and lucent noble lakes,
Intermingling radical wonder and greathearted beauty,
Gathering sleep to treasure and store magic in aftersummer's glow.

Janet Smalley

GFWC-SC Poet Laureate

GFWC South Carolina Jennie Award Recipient

The GFWC Lexington Woman's Club is honored to nominate Bobbie Sox for the prestigious Jennie Award. A woman of grace, joy, and lifelong dedication, Bobbie exemplifies servant leadership and embodies the spirit of GFWC in every aspect of her life.

A proud, lifelong South Carolinian, Bobbie joined the Lexington Woman's Club in 1964. For over 61 years, she has devoted herself to the club with unwavering passion. In 1967, just three years after joining, she was elected Club President, the first of many leadership roles she has held with excellence and humility. She has since served in nearly every office, often multiple times, and currently serves as Parliamentary Advisor and GFWC-SC Liaison. Bobbie was recognized as Clubwoman of the Year in both 1973 and 2019.



Her dedication extends far beyond the local level. She has served as Midlands District Secretary/Treasurer and GFWC-SC Parliamentary Advisor (2018–2025). As a member of the GFWC-SC Bylaws Committee for 18 years and former Credentials Chair, Bobbie has helped guide the organization's structure and direction. A beloved presence at conventions and meetings, she brings tradition, wisdom, and warmth to every gathering. Bobbie's commitment to service is evident throughout her community. A passionate supporter of Operation Smile, she personally matched club donations for many years, multiplying the impact of this vital cause. She also serves as Treasurer and Bylaws Co-Chair for the Friends of the Lexington County Museum and has been an active leader with the Friends of the Lexington County Library, supporting book sales and events like the annual Father-Daughter Dance.

Her outreach continues through Mission Lexington, where she distributes food and offers compassion to those in need. A devoted member of Lexington Baptist Church, Bobbie sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School, and leads a personal Christmas ministry—taking children shopping for gifts for themselves and their families, nurturing dignity and joy.

Bobbie's life is also a testament to love and perseverance. Married to her beloved husband, Frank Sox, for nearly 65 years, they raised two children, Kim and Jon. Professionally, she served 25 years as office manager at the Eye Center of Columbia. During that time she earned her degree in Business, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Columbia College in 1998.

In all she does, Bobbie Sox leads with heart, humility, and an unshakable commitment to serving others. She inspires through action, uplifts through kindness, and leads with grace. The Lexington Woman's Club is proud to nominate this extraordinary woman who truly is, in every way, distinctive by nature.



Is Your Flock Looking a Little Sparse?



Have you noticed some clubs are having significant membership gains while your club is struggling to add new birds to your flock? I've asked several clubs for their input as to what has worked for them – their responses are below:

Ann W. Clark ~ Lexington Woman's Club Membership Chair

- Sherry Phillips (Outreach Chair) and I have teamed up to be the “front door” to the club. Our process is to send an information letter to any potential member referred to us. We seek out our visitors at our meeting social time, introduce them around and follow-up after. We created a spreadsheet to keep track of who, what, where, when.
- When speaking with a potential member, we stress that we are a working club, not a social club. We add that out of the work for our community; great friendships are forged.
- The ‘snowballing’ of membership seems to come from our younger ladies who often work... they get good friends to join, and it just becomes more fun for all! The Executive Board encourages CSPs and committees to provide weekday AND after-hours plus weekend volunteering opportunities so that all have a chance to participate somewhere.

Barbara Becker ~ Chapin Woman's Club Membership Chair

We followed the instructions from the “How to Recruit New GFWC Members” Brochure:

1. At the last meeting of the year, I reached out to current members to ask anyone they know who might be interested in joining our club to send me their information.
2. Asked women we met and invited them to the membership luncheon and to meetings.
This method generated 20 women who attended our luncheon and 17 joined our club.

I also check a list of new homeowners in the area and reach out to them to see if they would be interested in joining GFWC to meet others and get acquainted with their new surroundings.

In addition, throughout the year, our members would invite friends and acquaintances to participate in community service projects that interested them or attend social activities. When prospective members get to know our members on a personal level and hear them talking enthusiastically about all the things we do, they tend to want to join in the fun.

Kathy Heagan ~ North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club President

Our Location and Visibility - Being in North Myrtle Beach, we're an ideal spot where many newcomers - especially those relocating from other states are looking for ways to get involved in the community. Our club is very well known in the city thanks to the many events we host, our strong social media presence, and growing traffic on our website. In many ways, new members find us rather than the other way around, often through word of mouth, referrals from other club members, or simply by seeing our visibility in the community.

Our Member Engagement - Once women join, they tend to stay because of how active and rewarding membership is. We offer a wide variety of committees and support over 20 charities, giving every member meaningful ways to get involved. In addition, we build camaraderie through monthly social events, recognition awards, and by fostering a

welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. We're always trying new things to keep members engaged and to have fun. This year I'm starting a "Kick Back with Kathy" luncheon inviting 5 members each month to my home for lunch.

Together, these factors have made our club both easy to discover and rewarding, which I feel is the true heart of membership success.

~~~~~  
Thank you all for your great feedback! To sum up how to sow a few 'seeds' to add to your flock....

Branch out when looking for new members! Word of mouth, publicity in your community, strong social media presence, inviting prospective members such as new residents to the area all help bring them in.

Once there, be welcoming, make sure to engage them and let them know what your club does, follow up after the meeting, and do not let them slip away...make sure they KNOW you want them to join.

After they join, continue to interact and engage with all members but especially the newer ones. Offer lots of opportunities for members to get to know each other with community projects and social events.

If you have any way YOUR CLUB has found successful, please send that information to Kaye Jones, GFWC-SC President-elect – it can be publicized in the Here Comes the Sun News and Notes. Have fun adding new birds to YOUR flock!

---

## **GFWC & GFWC-SC CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS**

Do you love to share your thoughts? How about talking to others? Everyone has a story. Why not tell yours and share your voice.

If you're struggling for ideas, or having trouble narrowing down a topic, here are a few suggestions that can help you get on track:

- Observe people, places, plants, animals, and objects. Record your results.
- Advertisements and posters can provide inspiration.
- Watch or participate in a special event.
- Visit a library. Libraries are a great source of new and sometimes surprising information.
- Record interesting conversations that are around you.
- Record interesting words, phrases or ideas that enter your mind during the day.
- Record your dreams.
- Keep a diary or journal.

GFWC sponsors writing contests in short story and poetry for members and youth to foster community spirit, talent, and growth as writers.

All information and the **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** can be found on the GFWC South Carolina website. Log into Member Portal, On the **RESOURCE** Page, click on **GFWC**, Scroll down to **Creative Arts Waiver**. You can also find the GFWC information about the Writing Contests in this GFWC section.

**Club Presidents** – Encourage members and youth to write a story or poem to express their thoughts in written word. REMINDER - Entries are due to Jackie Boland by March 15, 2026.

Complete information will be in the December GFWC South Carolina Magazine.



## PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT – PRESERVE OUR BIRDS

### Why Native Plants Matter for Birds, Butterflies & the Environment

#### A Natural Partnership

Native plants are the backbone of healthy ecosystems. Birds depend on insects for food, and most insects rely on native plants. For example, a single oak tree in South Carolina can support hundreds of caterpillar species, while non-natives like ginkgo support only a handful.



Kaye Gerrald  
Chairman

#### Pollinator Powerhouses

Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds thrive when they have access to native plants that provide nectar, pollen, and host sites. Monarchs, for instance, need milkweed to reproduce – without it, their populations decline.

#### Environmental Benefits

Native species are adapted to South Carolina's climate and soils. They:

- Use less water and fertilizer.
- Improve water quality by reducing runoff.
- Provide shade and shelter that supports biodiversity.
- Require less maintenance, saving time and energy.

#### South Carolina's Native Gems

Some excellent native plants for wildlife and landscaping include:

- **Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)** – Monarch host plant with bright orange blooms.
- **Swamp Milkweed (*A. incarnata*)** – Pink flowers for pollinators in wetter areas.
- **Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)** – Easy-to-grow wildflower that feeds bees and butterflies.
- **Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)** – Native grass providing bird habitat and food.
- **Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)** – SC's state flower; early nectar for bees and hummingbirds.
- **Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)** – Unique spherical flowers loved by pollinators and birds.

#### Planting for the Future

By choosing native plants, you're helping birds, butterflies, and pollinators survive – while creating a beautiful, low-maintenance garden that protects South Carolina's natural heritage.

| <u>Plant</u>                                               | <u>Benefits</u>                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Butterfly Milkweed</b><br>( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ) | A nectar-rich beauty that supports butterflies and other pollinators. (The orange one)                   |
| <b>Swamp Milkweed</b> ( <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> )       | Prefers moist soils and attracts monarch butterflies for both nectar and as a host plant. (The pink one) |
| <b>Buttonbush</b> ( <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> )     | Produces spherical blooms beloved by pollinators and supports birds. (White snowballs)                   |
| <b>Eastern Redbud</b> ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )         | Spring-blooming shrub with pink flowers that invite bees, butterflies, and birds.                        |



## Highlights from Teresa Lott's presentation at Summer Session Flora and Feathers: How Native Plants Support Birds

- Native plants support native insects. They also provide food in the form of seeds and fruit, as well as other components of habitat such as nesting sites and shelter/cover from weather and predators.
- 96% of all terrestrial birds (birds that live on land) rear their young on insects.
- Caterpillars are the preferred food source for many nesting birds.
- 6,000 – 9,000 caterpillars are needed to support a single brood of chickadees.
- NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS (Bird family information from the Audubon Native Plant Database)
  - o Native hollies in the genus Ilex may support 13 bird families.
  - o American Beautyberry may support 13 bird families.
  - o Downy Serviceberry may support 13 bird families.
  - o American Persimmon may support 13 bird families.
  - o American Sycamore may support 14 bird families.
  - o Native Oaks in the genus Quercus support over 900 species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)
- From [Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park Concept](#) - If US homeowners converted just half of their land to native plantings, it would collectively create an area larger than all national parks in the lower 48 states combined! It would create corridors and connections to existing national parks and preserves.

### Resources For Native Plants

[Audubon Native Plant Database](#)

[Audubon South Carolina](#)

[South Carolina Wildlife Federation Native Plants Valuable To Wildlife](#)

[South Carolina Native Plant Society Plant Directory](#)

[South Carolina Native Plant Society List of Native Plant Nurseries](#)

## Two Meaningful Ways to Make a Difference This Fall

As we enter September, our clubs have incredible opportunities to continue our legacy of service. Your State Your Partner St. Jude and Your State Your Project Wreaths Across America both perfectly align with our mission of community improvement and volunteer service.

### St. Jude Walk/Run - September 27, 2025

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and we have the chance to join thousands of supporters nationwide in the St. Jude Walk/Run on September 27th. As GFWC partners with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, our participation helps ensure that families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food while their child battles cancer.

**Why Your Participation Matters:** Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push childhood cancer survival rates from 20% to over 80%. Every step you take and every dollar you raise supports breakthrough research that's shared freely worldwide.

#### Easy Ways to Participate:

- Team Up: Join GFWC-SC Captain Juliet Casper's team for greater impact: [https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=160944&pg=personal&px=4103983](https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR?fr_id=160944&pg=personal&px=4103983)
- Flexible: Walk at your own pace, on your own schedule, even virtually using the St. Jude Walk mobile app.

**Action Steps:** Visit the link above to register and start fundraising today. GFWC clubwomen have consistently exceeded fundraising goals since 2016 - let's continue that tradition!



Megan Yongue  
Chairman

---

### Wreaths Across America - December 13, 2025

Looking ahead to December, mark your calendars for **National Wreaths Across America Day on December 13th**. This moving ceremony takes place at over 4,900 locations nationwide, including three national cemeteries right here in South Carolina: Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, Beaufort National Cemetery, and Florence National Cemetery.

**The Mission:** Remember, Honor, and Teach by placing fresh evergreen wreaths on veterans' graves during the holiday season, ensuring no hero is forgotten.

#### How to Get Involved:

- Sponsor Wreaths: \$17 places one wreath on a veteran's grave
- Volunteer: Help with wreath placement and ceremony activities on December 13th
- Organize: Coordinate sponsorships and volunteers through our club networks

**Action Steps:** Visit [wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://wreathsasscrossamerica.org) to sponsor wreaths or contact local coordinators to volunteer. Start planning now for meaningful family participation in this patriotic tradition.

---

### Why It Matters

Both St. Jude and Wreaths Across America represent the heart of what GFWC has stood for since 1890 - making our communities stronger through volunteer service. Whether we're supporting families facing childhood cancer or honoring veterans who secured our freedoms, we're carrying forward our proud tradition of service.

**Take Action Today:** Choose one or both opportunities to serve. Register for the St. Jude Walk by September 27th and start sponsoring wreaths for December 13th. Every act of service, no matter how small, creates ripples of positive change in our community.

Questions about either opportunity? Contact me ([megan.crinier@gmail.com](mailto:megan.crinier@gmail.com)) or visit the websites listed above. Let's make this fall season one of meaningful service together!



# JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM



**As GFWC women across the nation are preparing to return to meetings and jump back into action let's not forget the children!**



**Here are some standout project ideas that club women can implement to advocate for children in their communities:**

#### **Fall Fun with Purpose**

- **Pumpkin Patch Pop-Ups:** Organize mini pumpkin giveaways at local farmers markets or host your own and include educational games and child safety tips.
- **Costume Closet Drive:** Collect gently used Halloween costumes and distribute to shelters or foster care children so every child can participate in fall festivities.
- **Harvest of Hope Festival:** Host a fall-themed event with hayrides, crafts, and booths offering child advocacy information. Ask your local pumpkin farm if you can host a booth during their festivities.
- **Hold an Art Contest:** Have children voice their wants and needs through art. Display the artwork in public spaces to raise awareness and celebrate youth voices. Partner with local businesses to display on their store fronts.

#### **Warm Hearts, Warm Hands, Happy Communities**

- **Coat & Sock Drive:** Collect warm clothing for children as temperatures drop, ensuring no child goes cold this season.
- **Fall Family Resource Fair:** Partner with local agencies to provide information on food assistance, healthcare, and educational support.
- **Safe Spaces:** Work with local officials to improve playgrounds, parks, and community centers, ensuring they are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all children.

#### **Literacy and Libraries**

- **Create Mini Libraries:** filled with age-appropriate books. These "take one, leave one" stations promote reading and literacy while encouraging community engagement.
- **Create mentorship programs:** that connect club women with children and teens for guidance, tutoring, and emotional support. These relationships can be life-changing for both mentors and mentees.
- **Storytime with Seniors:** Bridge generations by organizing story time events where seniors read to children, either at libraries or local book stores. Why not host a story time at a local fall festival. This fosters intergenerational bonding and promotes literacy in a fun, engaging way.

#### **Children's Advocacy Workshops**

- **Host Workshops:** that educate parents and caregivers on children's rights, mental health awareness, and navigating local support systems. These sessions empower adults to better advocate for the children in their care.
- **Healthy Kids Campaign:** Partner with local health professionals to offer free wellness checks, nutrition education, and fitness activities. This initiative promotes physical and emotional well-being among children.

#### **Advocacy Through Legislation**

- **Encourage Club Members:** to write letters, attend town halls, and meet with lawmakers along with joining our legislative action center to support policies that protect and uplift children.

**Remember to always proudly display the GFWC logo and your Club name**

**These projects not only celebrate the season but also serve as powerful tools for advocacy. By combining creativity with compassion, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, one project at a time.**

**Let's make this September and October all about action, advocacy and awareness!**

## ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Advocates for Children Week is observed during the last full week of October (Oct. 19th through the 25th).



### Back to school

**It's a great time for clubs to start advocating for children by getting involved and making sure all children have the tools needed for a successful year.**

- **Provide Classroom Care Kits:** include tissues, hand sanitizer, pencils, and encouraging notes for teachers to distribute to students.
- **Healthy Hardy Breakfasts:** Host a morning meal for students and families to celebrate the new school year and share resources.
- **Homework Help Hubs:** Set up after-school tutoring stations at libraries or community centers staffed by club volunteers.
- **Organize a Drive:** fill backpacks with school supplies, hygiene items, and snacks for children in need. Not only is it important that children have the tools at the beginning of school but also to continue throughout the year. Work with the schools, the school districts and counselors to find the needs and resources necessary.

**The GFWC Fort Benton Woman's Club of Montana volunteers and teaches an afterschool cooking class. This club not only teaches the art of cooking but it incorporates basic education like, math, science and reading.**



## GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN



### WHAT IS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

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

The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation." We aim to honor our roots and be a voice for children. Clubwomen can be an advocate by working to:

- **Ensure that children are protected from harmful situations**
- **Encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles**
- **Impact policy to improve children's lives**

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

- **Child abuse**
- **Cyberbullying**
- **Depression and suicide**
- **Foster or residential care**
- **Homelessness**
- **Human trafficking**
- **Life-threatening illness**
- **Limits on screen time**
- **Cyber Predators**
- **Poverty**
- **Texting while driving**

### ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 to SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2025**

***BE A CHAMPION IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN***

Encourage clubs to work with your local police and social services agencies to determine what they most need to spruce up their children's waiting room areas. Sponsor a room and make it kid-friendly, and cozy. Clean, paint, and add children's-size furniture items to the room to bring warmth and caring into the surroundings. Create a book nook and art area and keep items stocked.

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

## PROJECT IDEAS

### ADVOCACY EFFORTS

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

### COLLABORATE ON A PROJECT

Partner with local schools, hospitals, and other organizations that are in need of resources for children and families. Sponsor, donate, or engage in activities that support the organizations' determined needs.

### FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH & SAFETY

Use resources to learn, educate, and raise awareness in the community regarding children's health and safety.

### WORK WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/FOSTER CARE

Undertake projects that provide a sense of security for children in foster care. Support programs which help children with special needs.

### PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partner with local schools to provide scholarships, support international educational opportunities. Provide local parks/recreation centers with scholarships and/or supplies for summer camps and other programs.

## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Undertake these and other projects with GFWC Affiliate Organizations that fit within the guidelines for the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children.

- MARCH OF DIMES: [www.marchforbabies.org/Home/SearchtoDonate](http://www.marchforbabies.org/Home/SearchtoDonate)
- OPERATION SMILE: [www.catalog.operationsmile.org/provide-medicines-supplies](http://www.catalog.operationsmile.org/provide-medicines-supplies)
- ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL: [www.stjude.org/get-involved](http://www.stjude.org/get-involved)
- UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION SHOT@LIFE CAMPAIGN: [www.shotatlife.org/champions](http://www.shotatlife.org/champions)
- UNICEF USA: [www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat](http://www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat)
- HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: [www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/womens-empowerment/send-a-girl-to-school.html](http://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/womens-empowerment/send-a-girl-to-school.html)
- CANINE COMPANIONS: [www.canine.org](http://www.canine.org)
- HOPE FOR JUSTICE: [www.hopeforjustice.org](http://www.hopeforjustice.org)

Please visit the Club Manual for additional resources for Advocates for Children.

COURTNEY EVANS  
DIRECTOR-ELECT OF JUNIOR CLUBS, GFWC-SC  
803.556.7042 | [cepevans@hotmail.com](mailto:cepevans@hotmail.com)

## GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

What are the next steps now?

By now, many GFWC SC clubs have signed up to take part in the GFWC International Day of Service, which highlights the GFWC Signature Program. Where do you go from here? Here are a few tips to help make the event even more successful.

- Don't forget to ensure all publications show GFWC on them.
- Assign someone in your club to document the event. This can help with promotion on social media platforms or other forms of publication.
- Follow up with invites to the event or activity to ensure the best representation of your club and community.
- Wear GFWC club wear so that it's clear who is providing the event.
- Be prepared to follow up with thank you notes to supporters, sponsors or hard-working GFWC clubwomen!
- Share your event with GFWC and GFWC SC afterwards so that we can acknowledge your clubwomen and document all the success GFWC women will bring to the GFWC International Day of Service.

### GFWC IS ASKING FOR CLUBS TO SHARE:

- Hours spent on the project
- Number of participants
- Funds raised/spent
- In-kind donations value
- Photos of your group IN ACTION
- Any press releases to your event

Simply email [GFWC@GFWC.org](mailto:GFWC@GFWC.org) and put International Day of Service in the subject line and copy [suzanne.gfwcsc@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.gfwcsc@gmail.com) and [cslawsonusa@aol.com](mailto:cslawsonusa@aol.com).

**In Federation Love,**

*Carrie*

---

**Carrie Zimmerman**  
**GFWC Signature Program Chairman**



## GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA PARTNERS WITH SCCADVASA FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

GFWC-SC has partnered with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) to run educational social media posts from our Facebook and Instagram sites in two areas.

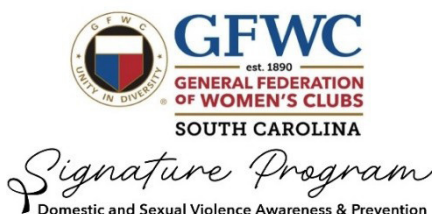
1. **International Day of Service** - we will post daily beginning September 21st through the 27th.
2. **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** theme **"Know What to Say. Know What to Do."**

Yes, even though our International Day of Service will conclude on September 27th, the violence will not stop. It is vitally important that each of us join advocates, survivors, and supporters nationwide to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October.



For DVAM we will be posting about the SC-specific Domestic Violence Awareness Month theme "Know What to Say. Know What to Do." which complements The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)'s ["Every1KnowsSome1"](#) national messaging campaign.

We will post a message daily Monday – Friday for the month of October. Please share these



posts on your club's Facebook page, and ask members to share these resources within their sphere of influence. Domestic violence is not a "private, family matter." Each of us has a role in supporting survivors, fostering healing, support, and preventing domestic violence in South Carolina.

Most victims of domestic violence tell a friend or family member about the abuse before reporting it. This campaign focuses on how to respond when somebody you know shares that they are experiencing domestic violence, ways to safely provide support, and where to find resources. The end of domestic violence for somebody you know starts with you.

Thank you in advance for standing up and supporting survivors.

**Connie Lawson**

**GFWC-SC Signature Program Chair**

[cslawsonusa@aol.com](mailto:cslawsonusa@aol.com)



# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** according to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that between 736 million to 852 million women, aged fifteen years or older, have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Within the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 16 million people are affected every year; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the CDC, 42.3 percent of women and 29.2 percent of men in South Carolina experience domestic or sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS,** South Carolina remains committed to ending domestic and sexual violence through the many efforts of state and private organizations dedicated to this mission; and

**WHEREAS,** the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization dedicated to volunteer community service, continues to highlight need in communities across the nation and the great State of South Carolina and to focus attention on domestic and sexual violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2025, as

### GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the General Federation of Women's Club South Carolina for the dedicated and devoted services the organization continues to provide to our communities.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry Dargan McMaster".

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



## INCREASE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

The most commonly used social media platforms within our GFWC organization appear to be Facebook and Instagram. Also, some clubs utilize X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, and TikTok. LinkedIn is also a popular platform. Each of these platforms has unique characteristics and attracts different audiences.

For this article, we are going to concentrate on Facebook and Instagram.

For all platforms, use **engaging content** and **attractive graphics, photos, or videos**. A picture is truly worth a thousand words! Crop your photos if needed. Rename or caption photos prior to posting to make them searchable. CANVA is a wonderful tool for creating graphics and doing so much more.

**Post frequently** to build up credibility and followers. Invite friends and family to “like” or “follow” your account. Make sure your accounts are public.

You can share content through posts, stories, or reels. Most of us are most familiar with posts. Experiment with the others! Different projects or events may lend themselves to using one over another. Why are you posting--Are you promoting? Are you issuing a call to action? Are you informing? Know your reason for posting.

To help increase our exposure, **use hashtags**. A hashtag starts with # and is followed by a short, concise word or acronym. Utilize these in your posts with no spaces within the hashtag. Some of my favorite ones are: #gfwc #gfwcsc #IAMGFWC #LivingtheVolunteerSpirit #GFWCIDS #gfwcadvocacy #unityindiversity #GFWCSCjuniors

Also, **use mentions** to increase exposure and to connect with others. Use @ followed by the username. Mentions will help your post reach their audiences as well as yours. Use @GFWC and @GFWCSouthCarolina to make sure these groups see your posts. Mentions can be a great way to add value to event sponsorships or partnerships, by following and mentioning them in promotional or thank you posts.

And finally, make sure you **“like”** GFWC and GFWC-South Carolina. When appropriate, re-post or share their content to your own pages. And use the GFWC-SC national logo and the GFWC-SC state logo for visual branding on your photos and graphics. These can be found in the member portal for downloading.

Happy posting!

Tina Majors

**GFWC-SC Communications and Public Relations Chairman**

[Gfwcvolunteer.tinamajors@gmail.com](mailto:Gfwcvolunteer.tinamajors@gmail.com)

615-415-5909

## 2024 - 2026 NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The GFWC Newsletter Contest encourages clubs and State Federations to establish a strong newsletter program aimed at increasing awareness about ongoing projects, programs, events, and issues that affect GFWC members and communities.

Newsletters do not need to be elaborate or lengthy. ***Substance is more important than style.***

A newsletter should be informative and generate enthusiasm, all while contributing to public relations outreach, membership recruitment and retention, and program development. Also, newsletters should always display the GFWC emblem.

### Contest Rules:

- Each Club or State Federation may submit one newsletter issue for entry.
- The newsletter must have been published and clearly dated during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- The front page of the newsletter must prominently display the official GFWC emblem and mention membership in GFWC. Refer to the *GFWC Style Guide* for GFWC Trademark Use Policies at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).
- Newsletter entries must include the contact information of at least one member, including an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address.
- Entries must include the GFWC Newsletter Contest form with your 250 word essay describing the club's approach to utilizing its newsletter for members and expanding GFWC's mission and brand.

Entries must be emailed to me at [deana.reed@yahoo.com](mailto:deana.reed@yahoo.com) by February 1 of the year for judging.

Entries will be judged on the following elements:

The Communications and Public Relations Toolkit in the GFWC Member Portal has ideas for creating informative and engaging newsletters.



## 2024 - 2026 WEBSITE CONTEST

Club and state websites can offer an almost unlimited amount of information for prospective, new, and current members. Having an online presence helps increase your club and state outreach while promoting the GFWC Brand.

The GFWC Website Contest aims to challenge clubs to use their websites as membership tools with organized and updated content that presents a professional and valuable, credible source of information.

A website that is updated weekly presents the information to your members and potential members in a timely manner and is a great source to spread the word of the Federation on the web.

### Contest Rules:

- Only one website per club may be submitted.
- The website homepage must contain a link to [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) and display the GFWC emblem.
- The website must include contact information for at least one member, an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address.
- The website may continue to be updated after the contest deadline date.
- The subject line of the submission email must read Website Contest Entry and the name of your club/state. Please email submissions to me at [deana.reed@yahoo.com](mailto:deana.reed@yahoo.com).
- The submission email must be received by 11:59 p.m. on February 1 in the year in which website entries will be judged.
- The submission email must include the completed GFWC Website Contest entry form, which includes a 250-word essay describing why the club's website is a valuable resource to members and potential members.

Entries will be judged on the following elements:

- Ease of navigation
- Overall appearance
- GFWC emblem is prominently displayed.
- Links to GFWC website and State website
- Links to GFWC/State/club affiliate organizations
- Current and relevant information
- Ease of ability to contact
- Ease of discovery via search platforms

*\*Private Member Only areas will not be judged.*

The Communications and Public Relations Toolkit in the GFWC Member Portal has ideas for creating informative and engaging websites.

# Working together for a ***litter-free*** South Carolina.

The Palmetto Pride Achievement Awards has been reinstated to GFWC-SC to award your efforts to help keep our communities and state beautiful! This will be an ongoing, annual program award for our clubs, so I hope you will all get behind it in whatever creative ways you can to help eliminate waste, pick up trash, clean up areas that are inviting critters or bugs, adopt a highway, get messages out to the community to help with your efforts, etc. Be sure to read the attached carefully so you take advantage of all the points available on the form throughout the year. Palmetto Pride information and form can be found at the following link: <https://gfwc-sc.org/gfwc-sc-information>.



I know many of you are already working on projects like this, so be sure to include it in you awards recap when filing them in February or March. Also, be sure to reach out me with any questions about the form or program.

Thank you for your efforts!

Connie Holston

**GFWC-SC Environment Chair**

[Cholston123@outlook.com](mailto:Cholston123@outlook.com)

734-751-3743





## EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### Read Across America Reading Baskets



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

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

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

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

#### **Process:**

- 1) Well before March 2nd, contact your school(s) to describe the basket project and inquire to see if they will allow club members to also read some of the selected books as part of the school’s reading celebration. Inquire as to the number of classes taught for each grade K-3 and the number of students.
- 2) Create the reading baskets for one or more local elementary schools. If possible, create one basket each for kindergarten, first, second and third grades (4 baskets per school).
- 3) The basket should contain some healthy snacks for the kids and teachers as well as some of the club members’ favorite new K-3 books. It is recommended that your basket for each grade contain enough snacks for every student to receive a snack and at least 4 books.
- 4) Ensure that selected books are age-appropriate and do not include any political or controversial topics.
- 5) Deliver baskets to the school(s), read to children as permitted and take pictures (without the children’s faces) and post the pictures of the baskets and reading to your club’s social media accounts.

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

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP reminds us that we are each part of a larger society and all of us have the responsibility to take actions that will foster a sense of community and build a better quality of life. Projects from Civic Engagement and Outreach focus on citizenship, crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness, those in need, food insecurity, the unhoused, and our military personnel and veterans.

Project ideas for this fall:

October 28th is National First Responders Day so do a small project to thank your local first responders.



- Prepare a snack basket – Have members bring various items that can be packed into a basket or bag and dropped off to local fire stations, police stations as a thank you for their service.
- Host a pizza party for a local fire station or police station – call to see if you can schedule a time to bring pizzas and salad to help say thank you for our local protectors.

November 11th is Veterans Day.



- Many schools host a Veteran's Day celebration. See if your club can sponsor a writing contest for middle school students with Essay topics such as: Why we celebrate Veteran's Day, History of Veteran's Day, How to Show Support for a Veteran. Top essays can be read at the school celebration with winners receiving a gift card from your club.
- Prepare thank you bags for veterans including patriotic items that can easily be purchased online such as patriotic Kleenex, patriotic socks, chapstick, etc. and pack into bags with candy. Take to a local Assisted Living or Nursing Home to distribute with a thank you card to any veteran.

## LEADS 2025 – Janet Prince – LEADS Chairman

What a wonderful year we have had with our LEADS 2025! We had 29 attendees in February and 3 more attended our mini-LEADS on Friday, August 8. We have had some wonderful instructors who helped us focus on Educate, Engage, and Empower – Going Back to the Basics.

Our next LEADS will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Woman's Club of Cayce Clubhouse. We will go more in-depth on leadership skills. For example, we will go over Conflict Resolution, Strategic Planning, Succession Planning, and Mentoring to name a few.

Even if you have been to LEADS before, I encourage you to attend again. So be sure to look for more information and the registration form in the December Clubwoman.



## STATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

GFWC-SC Members who wish to serve on the Executive Committee for the 2026-2028 Administration, please see below.

### The qualifications to serve as an officer of GFWC-SC are:

1. Be an active member in good standing of a club with direct membership.
2. Have been a member of GFWC-SC for three or more years.
3. Have served as either a Club President, District President, or GFWC-SC Chairman.
4. Is a legal resident of South Carolina.

More detailed duties of the GFWC Executive Committee positions can be found in the state bylaws, Article VIII.

The candidate must submit a letter of recommendation from their club, signed by the club president, to the State Elections Committee Chairman at the address below by December 31, 2025.

### Mail to:

Kristin Fields  
2 Clay Court  
Chapin, SC 29036

Or

Email to: [kristinf11@aol.com](mailto:kristinf11@aol.com)

The Elections Committee will meet in January 2026 and submit a list of nominees to be voted on at the 2026 GFWC-SC State Annual Convention.

District Presidents, please submit a list of the members voted on at your conference to serve 2026-2028 state positions to be included in the Call to Convention.





**To:** GFWC-SC Club Presidents

**From:** Headquarters Committee  
Ann Malpass, Chairman

**Re:** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Stocking Extravaganza

We are excited to announce that it's time to get ready for the Stocking Extravaganza! This year's event will be a combination of an on-line auction and our traditional in-person drop-in at the mansion. Everything you need to know and share with your club members is below. Forms you will need are included and may be duplicated as needed.



**Auction:** Opens Sunday, November 30 and closes Wednesday, December 3. All bidding will be on-line. Winning bidders should pick up their auction items Thursday-Saturday (December 4-6) between 9 AM and noon, unless other arrangements are made.

**Drop-in:** There will be an evening of holiday fun at the mansion ~ **Tuesday, December 2** ~ 5-8 PM. Refreshments, raffles, and door prizes will be offered. Stockings and auction items will be on display for viewing. All bidding will be done on-line. The "drop and go" raffle will be for in-person attendees only. Winners do not need to be present to win!! Again this year, there will be several stockings available at the drop-in to bid on, win and take home that evening! Bidding for these items will be in person only!

**Tickets:** Tickets for the in-person drop-in will be \$25. Tickets can be purchased on-line on the auction website or by contacting Barbara Williams at [sitty128@gmail.com](mailto:sitty128@gmail.com). Tickets will be waiting for purchasers at the door as "will-call". Please plan to come and bring your friends and neighbors - this is not only for GFWC SC ladies!

**Stockings and Auction Item Donations:** We need clubs to create and donate spectacular stockings just as they have since 2012. If your club would prefer our elves to do the creating, you may make a \$75 or more donation towards the creation of a stocking.

**Sponsors:** We appreciate sponsorships by individuals, clubs and/or businesses. See the enclosed letter for suggested giving levels. However, any amount is welcomed. Because we are a 501(c)3 organization, all contributions are tax deductible. The enclosed sponsor letter may be duplicated as needed.

**Deadlines:** *Information, checks, stockings and other donations will gladly be accepted before the deadlines listed below.*

**October 1** – clubs inform headquarters of intention to donate stocking, auction items, or stocking sponsorship

**October 15** – clubs sponsoring stockings should send \$75 checks to headquarters

**November 9** – stockings and auctions items due at headquarters

**November 15** – sponsorship checks due to headquarters

### **Again this year . . .**

We are stuffing a stocking with cash and half of it could be yours!  
The 50/50 drawing will be held, and here's what you need to know...

\$10 tickets may be purchased to split the raffle income 50/50 with Headquarters.

Tickets may be purchased on-line between November 30 and December 3, at any time from a member of the Headquarters committee or at the drop-in at Headquarters on December 2.

A drawing will be held on Friday, December 5, and the winner will receive half the money raised from tickets sales. Last year's winner received \$1,375 – and so did Headquarters!! That was some serious Christmas shopping cash for the lucky winner!

Your generous support of *The Christmas Stocking Extravaganza* and YOUR headquarters is most appreciated! We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you during the holidays.

Ann Malpass (803) 622-0566

[malpassat@aol.com](mailto:malpassat@aol.com)

Susan Smith (803) 446-6163

[susanabsmith@gmail.com](mailto:susanabsmith@gmail.com)



**GFWC Southern Region**  
**2024-2026 GFWC Southern Region President**  
**Circle of Service – Southern Sisters Serving to Infinity and Beyond**  
**July 31, 2025**

Dear GFWC Southern Region Members:

I am excited to issue the Call to the 2025 GFWC Southern Region Conference, to be held in Huntsville, Alabama, October 16-19. The Alabama Clubwomen have been busy planning a wonderful weekend for our annual meeting. Please share this call with your members and encourage them to attend.

Our special guests will be our 2024-2026 GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil, and GFWC President-elect, Wendy Carriker. We will also hear greetings from the GFWC officers within our Region.

The conference agenda is filled with presentations led by our GFWC chairmen and committee members, on GFWC program updates and ideas for club projects. Topics to be covered include Community Service Programs, Leadership, recognition of the 2025 GFWC LEADS graduates, Membership, Signature Program, GFWC Fundraising, Communications, Junior Special Program, Legislation/Public Policy, Annual Giving, Protocol, and the Region Special Project. We will also hear from our State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs throughout the weekend.

The Board of Directors will meet and dine together on Thursday evening at 6:30 at Embassy Suites. Friday will begin at 9:00am with a tour to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and includes access to one of the scheduled planetarium showings. Following the tour, members will be taken to Bridge Street Town Centre for shopping and lunch on their own. Members will also have the option of returning to the hotel after the Space and Rocket Center tour. State pictures will be Friday evening before the Official Opening at the Alabama State Night Dinner. The guest speaker will be Chris Newlin with the National Children's Advocacy Center. Following dinner, I hope you will all join in the "Boot Scootin' Fun: Line Dancing", with proceeds being donated to the National Children's Advocacy Center. Be sure to wear your favorite western attire as prizes will be awarded for the Most Enthusiastic and Most Bling. The business session begins Saturday morning and includes the Election of Officers for 2026-2028. Keynote speaker at lunch will be Wendy Carriker, GFWC President-elect. Following the afternoon business session, the 2026-2028 State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs will meet with President-elect Wendy. Keynote speaker Saturday evening will be GFWC International President Suellen Brazil. In addition, each state's Jennie Winner will be recognized at the dinner. The conference concludes on Sunday morning with breakfast and the invitation to the 2026 GFWC Southern Region Conference in Florida.

**Service Project for National Children's Advocacy** - Meeting attendees are asked to support the National Children's Advocacy Center by participating in a Sock Drive and/or a Stuff the Diaper Bags Project. Bring socks in all sizes - from baby to teen! These will go directly to children and families in the Prevention and Intervention programs. As winter approaches, new socks are always needed and appreciated, especially as families navigate challenging times. The second option is the "Stuff the Diaper Bags" project which supports children in the Healthy Families program by helping fill diaper bags with essentials. These items can be



## GFWC SOUTHERN REGION ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by  
GFWC Alabama

Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville  
800 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801  
October 16-19, 2025



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ State Federation \_\_\_\_\_

Please Complete the Following for Credentials:

| Position                                                                                                                                     | Title | Position                                           | Title |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GFWC Officer                                                                                                        |       | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Region Officer   |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GFWC Chairman                                                                                                       |       | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Region Chairman  |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GFWC Committee                                                                                                      |       | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Region Committee |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Federation Officer (title)                                                                                    |       |                                                    |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member <input type="checkbox"/> Club President <input type="checkbox"/> Booster <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |       |                                                    |       |

| Description                       |                                                                                                                                                                                               | Cost                                                                                                                                      | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Registration Fee                  | Full Conference                                                                                                                                                                               | \$25.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Registration Fee                  | One Day Only                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$20.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Thursday, October 16              | Board of Directors Dinner                                                                                                                                                                     | \$60.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Friday, October 17                | Tour: Space & Rocket Center                                                                                                                                                                   | \$75.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
|                                   | State Night Pictures and Dinner                                                                                                                                                               | \$70.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
|                                   | Line Dancing (9:30 or immediately following dinner)                                                                                                                                           | \$15.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Saturday, October 18              | Luncheon                                                                                                                                                                                      | \$60.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
|                                   | Southern Region Dinner                                                                                                                                                                        | \$40.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Sunday, October 19                | Brunch                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$50.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| GFWC International Day of Service | Donate to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund in support of the <b>2025 GFWC International Day of Service</b> . The region treasurer will mail the check to GFWC the week of IDS. | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other |       |
| Late Fee                          | If postmarked/submitted after September 17                                                                                                                                                    | \$40.00                                                                                                                                   |       |
| Total Due                         | Registration, Tour, and Meals                                                                                                                                                                 | Total                                                                                                                                     |       |

Please list dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email registration form to meclack@teleclipse.net. Then mail your check made payable GFWC Alabama to Ellen Clack, 5460 Louina Road, Roanoke, AL 36274.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville, 800 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 539-7373

The room rate is \$179 for 2 Room Suite – 2 Queen Beds or 2 Room Suite – 1 King Bed

Use this link or the QR code to book a room: <https://tinyurl.com/4uw8rr6b>



The deadline to reserve a room at the group rate is Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

|                     |  |                         |  |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Allergies           |  | Medication in Emergency |  |
| Notify in Emergency |  | Phone                   |  |



## *Dates To Remember*

**September 1-30 2025  
Alzheimer's Month**

**Septembr 1 - 30, 2025  
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

**September 18, 2025  
Coastal District Conference, via Zoom**

**September 21, 2025  
Midlands District Conference, 508 Gervais St., Columbia**

**September 21, 2025  
World Alzheimer's Day**

**September 27, 2025  
GFWC International Day of Service**

**September 27, 2025  
St. Jude's Walk**

**October 3-31, 2025  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**October 12, 2025  
Upstate District Conference, Rock Hill**

**October 16-19, 2025  
Southern Region Conference, Huntsville, AL**

**October 19-25, 2025  
GFWC Advocates for Children Week**

**December 10, 2025  
GFWC Holiday Reception**

**January 17, 2026  
GFWC-SC Winter Session Meeting  
via Zoom**

**February 21, 2026  
GFWC-SC LEADS**



Beyond Abuse



Casa Family  
Systems



Cumbee  
Center



Family Justice  
Center



The Family  
Resource Center



First Light



Hopeful  
Horizons



Julie Valentine  
Center



Meg's House



My Sister's  
House



Pathways to  
Healing



Palmetto  
Citizens Against  
Sexual Assault &  
Childrens  
Advocacy Center



Pee Dee  
Coalition Against  
Domestic &  
Sexual Assault



Pickens County  
Advocacy Center



Project R.E.S.T.



Rape Crisis  
Center of  
Horry &  
Georgetown  
Counties



Safe Harbor



The SAFE  
Home



Safe Passage,  
Inc.



Sistercare



Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S.  
Sexual Assault Center



YWCA of The Upper  
Lowlands