

GFWC South Carolina

CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE



**Wishing you peace and joy throughout the
holiday season and in the coming New Year.**

GFWC SC Executive Committee



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

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I don't know about you, but I'm finding it difficult to believe the holidays are already upon us. For the first time, I put up Christmas decorations before Thanksgiving. Both my children were home for Thanksgiving with their spouses/fiancée's, and I don't think we'll see either of them for Christmas. So, a festive Thanksgiving celebration it was!



As Clubwomen, we know that as the holidays quickly approach, so too does GFWC reporting season. As the cold and wintry weather replaces the warmth of the bright southern sun, I know each of you, both personally and in your club work, will continue to 'Be Someone's Sunshine.' I've seen your clubs' posts on social media and look forward to reading about all the sunshine you've spread in your club activities this calendar year.

Winter Session meetings will again be held via Zoom on January 17. I sincerely hope that you'll register. The Call with the Zeffy link can be found on page 34, and on GFWC-SC.org. It will be a great opportunity to have both meeting and social time if you get together with friends. And you won't want to miss this one, as our GFWC liaison for our affiliate organization, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, will be joining us!

Southern Region President, Laurie O'Kelly (St. Andrew's Woman's Club), has chosen Heifer International and Flock of Chicks as her special project this administration. Heifer has a special fundraising page just for us, and every donation will be matched. Your contribution will automatically double! Look for more at <https://fundraise.heifer.org/SoCarolinaGFWC>.

Please don't miss the information in this issue about our day of LEADS training in February. Mark your calendars! And although it's too early to receive a firm commitment on an exact date from the legislative assistant for Legislation Day, it looks like March 27 is a good bet. I hope you'll plan to attend with a group from your club. We'll be going to lunch directly afterwards. Look for more on that on Page 20 and in the next issue of Here Comes the Sun membership newsletter.

So, until we meet again at Winter Session, I wish you a very happy holiday season. May your days be filled with joy, love, and the warmth of togetherness. May you find moments of peace and happiness with your friends and loved ones and may the spirit of the season bring you comfort and cheer.

In Federation Love,

Suzanne

**Suzanne Carswell
GFWC-SC President**





Be the Spark – December Reflections

Wow! I can hardly believe I'm here again writing another December Clubwoman article. It feels like just yesterday I was reflecting on last year's message. Time truly flies when your heart is ablaze with service!

Our Junior Director's theme for the 2024–2026 administration, "Be the Spark," continues to shine brightly. Its mission – to ignite excitement for the great outdoors and inspire kids to step away from screens – is still going strong! It's not too late for your clubs to join in and complete a service project that embodies this vibrant theme.



As reports begin to roll in, I'm excited to select new outside judges to help decide which clubs will earn the titles of Blue Flame, Ember, or Torch. Remember, all GFWC-SC clubs are encouraged to participate – this isn't just for Juniors! Consider sparking partnerships with local schools, recreation departments, and parks to bring your projects to life.

A heartfelt thank-you to all of the South Carolina Clubwomen who attended Southern Region in Huntsville, Alabama! We had an absolute blast line dancing at the Fun Night, which raised funds for a domestic violence shelter – what a wonderful way to combine joy and purpose.

Thank you, too, for being sparks of kindness and compassion in your local communities. I can't wait to see you all at Winter Board via Zoom! The Junior Board will be preparing and serving a meal at the Ronald McDonald House in January or February – stay tuned for the official date and details.

And here's a little exciting news to keep that flame burning – we're launching a new club for past Junior Directors!

Lastly, this Junior Director has recently collaborated with both the Bylaws Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do to support your club. I'd love to visit, connect, and keep the fire of service burning bright across our state!

Together, let's continue to spark change, ignite passion, and keep South Carolina glowing with service.

In Junior Love,

Michelle

Michelle Blackmon
GFWC-SC Director of Junior Clubs



Message From

Kaye Jones, GFWC-SC President-elect



We are down to the wire in adding new clubs to our state federation as well as increasing our membership numbers. It appears we will bring in two new clubs this administration - a Juniorette club and a cyber book club! And we want MORE... more clubs and more members! I am



here to help you - if you have an idea for a new club or a membership drive and have questions, ask me. My job is to help YOU! There is a \$50 once a year Membership Recruitment Grant available thru GFWC to help with your recruiting expenses. You can find the form on the GFWC.org website or contact me and I'll be happy to get it to you.

Also, don't forget to complete the GFWC 2024-2026 Membership "EDUCATE, ENGAGE & EMPOWER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN REPORT" also available on GFWC.org. This has a big name but is easy to complete. This form is sent to headquarters at the end of each quarter (remaining deadlines this year are 1/2, 4/1, and 7/1). If you missed the 10/1 deadline and had new members, add it to the 1/2 report. This gives new members access to GFWC information. Please cc me at clemsongirlkaye@aol.com when you send this to GFWC.

I love talking with you and visiting for a club meeting or fundraiser so invite me. I'll do my best to attend. This is my job this year and I'm happy to help you in any way I can.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, peace, and love. I look forward to seeing you at our Winter Session.

In Federation Love,

Kaye



Message From

Katie Whitten, GFWC-SC Treasurer



RAFFLES, RAFFLES, RAFFLES

Basket raffles, 50/50 raffles, Donated Item raffles.
The list goes on and on.

Raffles are definitely a favorite fundraiser for every GFWC-SC Club.

But do you know and understand the SC Secretary of State registration and filing regulations for raffles?

Generally, in order to conduct a raffle, a nonprofit organization must file an [annual raffle registration form \(PDF\)](#) with the Division of Public Charities. Registered organizations are also required to file an [annual raffle financial report \(PDF\)](#).

However, if an organization only conducts "exempt" raffles, it is not required to file a raffle registration or annual raffle financial report. ["Exempt" raffles are different from "nonexempt" raffles \(PDF\)](#) in terms of prize limits, raffle participants, and frequency of raffle events. A summary of the differences can be found via the link above.

The two types of exempt raffles are:

(1) Raffles in which a noncash prize or prizes have been donated to the nonprofit organization, and the total value of the prize or prizes of a single raffle event is not more than \$950.00;

and

(2) Fifty-fifty raffles in which the total value of the proceeds collected is not more than \$950.00, and raffle tickets are sold ONLY to the nonprofit organization's members or its guests, and not to the general public.

If your raffle does not meet either of these criteria, then you MUST file a registration form and an annual raffle financial report. The filing fee for the raffle registration form is \$50.00. In addition, your nonprofit must file an annual raffle financial report 4 ½ months after the end of its fiscal year.

Rules for Non-Exempt Raffles

Don't let the filing requirement for Non-Exempt raffles scare you. It isn't difficult and can be done online at the same time you are filing your annual registration documents with the Secretary of State. But you do need to track certain information in addition to the value of each prize. These include how many tickets you have sold and the total amount earned for each raffle through raffle ticket sales.

For each raffle event, the fair market value of all prizes offered cannot exceed \$300,000.00. Furthermore, the fair market value of a single raffle prize cannot exceed \$80,000.00. The purchase price of a raffle ticket may not exceed \$300.00. You can hold only 4 non-exempt raffles each year.

However, it is important that you complete the filing on a timely basis.

Non-compliance with the Nonprofit Raffles for Charitable Purposes Act, including but not limited to failure to submit all forms and documents in a timely manner, will result in the assessment of administrative fines as well as criminal prosecution. The Secretary of State may, upon his own motion or the complaint of any person, investigate persons and organizations that violate South Carolina law governing raffles. Some GFWC-SC clubs have had to pay such fines. And, they received a letter from the Secretary of State stating that they were no longer considered a recognized charity within South Carolina because of their failure to file the annual raffles report. From the date of that letter until the situation was corrected, they could not accept donations or have ANY fundraisers. All was quickly cleared with submission of the filing and payment of the fines. But don't risk that!

GFWC-SC club treasurers need to stay on top of the filing and reporting requirements. If you have questions or need help in understanding the rules, reach out to me. I'll be glad to help you.

In the meantime, I hope I see you at Headquarters and that you participate in the raffles there.

Wishing you a successful fundraising season,

In Federation Love,

Katie

Message From

Kaye Hunke, GFWC-SC Secretary



Hello to my GFWC-SC sisters!

Cooler weather is upon us and that means Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far behind. It is a busy time for all of us, so please take time to take care of you.

I sure have had a busy Fall. I attended all the District meetings via zoom or in person. It sure was good to hear how creative all the districts are in their fundraising. You are all inspiring. I had a blast at the Southern Region meeting in Huntsville. The clubs from Alabama sure know how to throw a party. It was informative as well as fun.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Stocking Extravaganza on December 2 in Columbia or at one of your upcoming fundraisers. Please invite me; I would love to attend if my schedule permits.

As a reminder, if you stand up to give a report at any of our meetings, please give me a copy of your report. Either bring an extra copy or send it via email. My email address is khunke@aol.com.

In Federation Love,

Kaye



"Every report is a chapter in our story. Let's tell it boldly."

Suellen Brazil

That's why reporting is more than a formality, it's a celebration of impact. Every hour served, every life touched, and every dollar raised deserves to be recognized and remembered. These contributions tell the full story of our Federation's reach and influence.



GFWC
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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



Message From

Carrie Zimmerman

GFWC-SC Second Vice President

2024-2025 GFWC-SC YEAR END REPORTING INFORMATION

Reporting Matters and gives clubs a time to shine!

Reporting Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025



Reports are Due: NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT OF THE DUE DATE LISTED

****CLUB CATEGORIES****

General I	1-14 members
General II	15-19 members
General III	30+ members
Junior	
Juniorettes	

THE INTENT OF YOUR CLUB PROJECT DETERMINES WHERE YOU REPORT

Examples:

- An ART THERAPY project that emphasizes the therapeutic value of art> ARTS & CULTURE
- A project to aid veterans with PTSD> CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH
- Animal themed fundraiser to benefit endangered animals> ENVIRONMENT
- A collection of books that helps a school library> EDUCATION & LIBRARIES
- And a project to aid those with heart health> HEALTH & WELLNESS

IMPORTANT REMINDER! FOR REPORTING PURPOSES...

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CLUB MEMBERS IS THE # OF PAID MEMBERS FOR YOUR CLUB
AS OF APRIL 30, 2025**

REPORTING INFORMATION

- **CLUBS ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT ONE COPY OF EACH REPORT TO CARRIE ZIMMERMAN AT czim22@gmail.com** with the club's name and title of the report in the email subject line.
- All reports must be emailed by midnight of the due date listed – please send one report package/ subject (cover sheet, report, and/or addenda) in one email with the club's name and CSP/Special Project name in the email subject line.
- Report all club approved projects your club has done for each CSP, GFWC Special & Signature Program, Advancement Plan and President's Special Project -Complete a Statistical & Narrative Cover sheet on EVERY club approved project even if your club is not providing a narrative.
- **INCLUDE IN EACH REPORT:** A separate Statistical & Narrative Cover Form with Submission Type clearly marked, a separate narrative for each program report, as well as addenda (if you are providing any of these). Make sure you indicate Narrative and/or Addenda or both on the cover sheet form
- Clubs are asked to put special emphasis on up to three (3) TOP projects in each of their reports by BRIEFLY describing the INTENT of the project...who, what, when, where & why of the project in the narrative.

- Up to three (3) Narrative pages can be attached in the email with the Statistical & Narrative Cover Form marked as Narrative.
- Up to five (5) Addenda pages can be attached in the email with the Statistical & Narrative Cover Form marked as Addenda.
- Caption ALL photo addenda with Club Name, CSP or Special Project reporting under, and what is happening
- Junior Clubs must submit one additional report to the Director of Junior Clubs Michelle Blackmon at mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com.
- GFWC-SC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT, GFWC-SC DIRECTOR OF JUNIORS SPECIAL PROJECT, FUNDRAISING & THE CIP REPORT are the only projects that may be 'double' or 'cross' reported.
- All clubs are encouraged to, AT A MINIMUM, submit the Statistical & Narrative Cover Form
- Only reports received via email will be judged unless otherwise stated!
- For questions or issues, please contact CARRIE ZIMMERMAN via text or phone to 864.710.5851 or email czim22@gmail.com.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Evaluation of each report will be based on the following so please address all applicable items in your reporting:

- Total volunteer hours, dollars donated, dollars raised and in-kind donations will be evaluated on a per capita basis for all clubs
- Description of the projects in the narrative form
- Number of projects, hours, dollars, & in-kind contributions
- Participation of membership as compared to club size
- Community participation especially other outside organizations or individuals
- Publicity of project for club, GFWC-SC, and GFWC
- Success of project – impact on community
- Any additional information i.e. awards, sponsorship relating to project
- Innovation and originality of project

DEFINITIONS FOR REPORTING

ADDENDA may include photos, handouts, publicity, etc. which help augment the understanding of your narrative and project.

ADVANCEMENT PLANS are the programs and projects clubs initiate to advance their clubs. There are 6 plan areas: Communication & Public Relations, Fundraising, Leadership, Legislation & Public Policy, Membership, Women's History & Resource Center.

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS such as United Nations Program Shot@Life, Heifer International, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Operation Smile, Hope for Justice, March of Dimes, Canine Companions for Independence, UNICEF and Alzheimer's Association. PLEASE SHARE IN YOUR NARRATIVE ANY IN-KIND DONATIONS AND VALUE. GFWC HAS ASKED FOR THIS AFTER OUR FORM WAS APPROVED. (As AFFILIATES do change, for a complete list, refer to the GFWC.org website.) Also complete the SC Affiliate Statistical Form – this is one form to capture ALL the work your club does with any of the Affiliate Organizations.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS (CSPs) are the programs and projects club members initiate and participate in to serve their communities, including projects with GFWC Affiliates. There are 5 program areas: Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, Health & Wellness.

DOLLARS DONATED is the monetary amount given to programs and projects.

DOLLARS RAISED reflect dollars earned from fundraising and development of programs and projects. Applies to **FUNDRAISING ONLY**.

IN-KIND DONATIONS reflect the monetary value for goods provided to CSP programs and projects. Please refer to the GFWC In-Kind Donation Guide for an estimated value of commonly donated items at <https://www.gfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/In-Kind-Donation-Guide-2018.pdf> You may certainly estimate a value you feel best reflects your contribution.

INTENT explains reason for project.

NARRATIVE is the written description wherein you describe the Intent of the Project and the Who, What, When, Where and How.

WHERE, HOW and WHY OF A PROJECT

NUMBER OF PROJECTS is the numerical account of the programs and projects initiated and participated in by your club.

STATISTICS are the Numbers: dollars, hours, members, etc.

VOLUNTEER HOURS are the amount of time that members worked on Club Approved programs and projects.

EXAMPLE: If a club member or even several separate members donate blood, deliver Meals-On-Wheels, make financial contributions to a charity, etc. it is NOT REPORTABLE. IF your CLUB votes to make a project of volunteering at the food pantry, delivering Meals-On-Wheels, makes a charitable grant or contribution with Club Funds, or go as a group wearing GFWC or Club apparel to donate blood, then that is a Club Project and those hours are reportable. REMEMBER: When you have a speaker (or attend a state meeting), you may count volunteer hours for the subject matter (ex: Environment) for each club member attending. Round to nearest hour!

ALL BELOW DUE FEBRUARY 1- to 2nd Vice President, Carrie Zimmerman, czim22@gmail.com

All clubs submitting reports will be considered for:

- o Certificate of Awards given to 1st Place winning Entries
- o Club Creativity Awards in the three (3) General Membership, Junior, & Juniorettes categories

Your reports will be sent to GFWC by GFWC-SC

SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS

The following awards will be judged from the entries submitted by category:

Debbie Alexander Adult Education Award: To the club which has accomplished the most in the field of adult education by promoting adult literacy.

Hughes Legislation Award: To the club reporting on an unusual legislation project.

Lexington Woman's Club Civic Engagement & Outreach Award: To the club doing the most outstanding work in Civic Engagement & Outreach.

Marie J Hammond Literary Award: To the club accomplishing the most toward the eradication of illiteracy.

Rebecca Robbins Fundraising Award: To the club, or clubs working jointly, with the best overall fundraising project.

Saxe Gotha Leadership Award: To the club with the best overall leadership project.

~Special note for CSP reports from GFWC ~

2024-2026 GFWC COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVES

The 2024-2026 Community Connection Initiatives are projects that make a visual, physical, or emotional impact at the grassroots level. They are projects that bring awareness to what GFWC volunteering is all about. A Community Connection Initiative brings the shimmer, the glitter, and the shine to being a member of a GFWC club into your local community. Public relations and media play a large part in a Community Connection Initiative. Be sure to advertise through internet, newspaper articles, social media, blog posts, radio, and television. Make an impact that will ensure your community members want to be a part of such a passionate group of women making good things happen at the grassroots level.

Read more up on this on GFWC.org and make sure you include this information in your CSP reporting.

Submit to 2nd Vice President, Carrie Zimmerman, czim22@gmail.com.

GFWC-SC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS STATISTICAL FORM

The information here may have been reported in other reports, however please complete this one statistical form for all projects your club completed with any GFWC affiliate organization. This form is available on the GFWC-SC website.

ALL BELOW DUE MARCH 15 – These are State or District Reports and Awards

GFWC-SC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS - USE STATE/DISTRICT AWARD FORM and submit these awards to Kaye Gerrald, kaye.gerrald@gmail.com.

CAROLINA WREN AWARD: To the club with the best overall project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER AWARD: To the club with the best collaborative project, two clubs working together OR a club working with a local park, state park, recreation commission or local government. Promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

SPARROW AWARD: To the club with the most creative project promoting awareness, enjoyment, education, or conservation of birds.

SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS-USE STATE/DISTRICT AWARD FORM

To be awarded at state convention. Submit per instructions below.

General Cup Award: To the General club in each category that most effectively carries out the GFWC Program Guidelines. Use the GFWC-SC State/District Award Form. Summarize club work from Jan. 1-Dec. 31. Limit report to NO MORE THAN SEVEN (7) pages to include: cover, narrative and FIVE (5) pages of addenda (optional). Report SEPARATELY in each Community Service Program only. Include a brief description of the programs and projects of your club. Describe briefly visual aids used such as exhibits, workshops, publications, etc. List other activities or contributions (money, time, etc.) that in any manner promoted GFWC Programs. Submit to 2nd Vice President, Carrie Zimmerman, czim22@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: the 2nd Vice President and the Director of Junior Clubs will submit to President Suzanne Carswell the winners of the above categories of the GENERAL CUP AWARD by March 25 to be judged as the overall Best of the Best winner for GFWC-SC President's Award of Excellence. This award rewards and recognizes outstanding projects and reporting for work done in the community by their club. This award will be a Silver Certificate as well as a \$100 monetary award.

Rosemary Rivers Memorial Award: To the club with the best overall project. Submit two (2) copies to your District President. (In turn, each District President will send the winning reports to 1st Vice President, Kaye Jones, clemsongirlkaye@aol.com By April 1 for final judging.)

MEMBERSHIP SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS

Howie Stackhouse/Nancy Boozer Award: To the District gaining the most newly federated clubs during the reporting year. The Treasurer determines the winner.

Sylvia Ayers Membership Award: To the club with the largest net gain in the reporting year. The Treasurer determines the winner.

HEADQUARTERS SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS

Submit per instructions below.

Jan W. Hadwin Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: To the club submitting the largest dollar amount in contributions to the Mansion Endowment. Submit contributions and names to the GFWC-SC Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Fund, 1511 Laurel St. Columbia, SC 29201. To be judged by GFWC-SC Headquarters Committee.

Princa M. Wright Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: To the club generating the largest number of contributions to the Mansion Endowment, which includes all Mansion Society categories. Submit names of contributors to the GFWC-SC Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Fund, 1511 Laurel St., Columbia, SC 29201. To be judged by GFWC-SC Headquarters Committee.

Rudy H. McManus Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment Award: To the District generating the largest number of contributors to the Sims-Stackhouse Mansion Endowment. Submit names of contributors to the GFWC-SC Sims-Stackhouse Fund, 1511 Laurel St. Columbia, SC 29201. To be judged by GFWC-SC Headquarters Committee.

CONTRIBUTION SHEET SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS

All clubs submitting a CONTRIBUTION SHEET will be considered for the awards listed below. Submit to GFWC-SC Treasurer, Katie Whitten, kqwhitten@gmail.com.

Keith Unger Memorial Award: To the club with the most donations to the Headquarters Fund.

Stackhouse Headquarters Award: To the club that contributes the most per-capita to the GFWC-SC Headquarters Fund. In-kind contributions, i.e. time and items, should be listed and submitted along with the Contribution Sheet.

Virginia (Sissy) Welch Award: To the District contributing the most money per capita to the GFWC-SC Headquarters Fund.

Endowment Fund Award: To the club with the most donations to the Endowment Fund.

Janet B. Agnew Award: To the club with most donations to the General Fund.

Kate T. Davis Memorial Award: To the club with the most donations to the Scholarship Fund.

Clubwoman Magazine Award: To the club with the most donations to GFWC-SC Clubwoman Magazine.

Progress Foundation Award: To the club with the highest per capita donation to GFWC-SC Progress Foundation, awarded annually at convention.

Caroline Mahaffey Hope Award: To the club that donates the most per capita to the Disaster Relief Fund during the GFWC-SC club year, including any funds donated on the Contribution Sheet, through Calls for Giving or random contributions. Award to be determined by the report of the GFWC-SC Treasurer and awarded by Caroline Mahaffey at the annual GFWC-SC Convention.

CONTRIBUTION SHEET SILVER CERTIFICATE AWARDS

All clubs submitting a RATING SHEET will be considered for the awards below. Submit one (1) copy to 1st Vice President, Kaye Jones, clemsongirlkaye@aol.com, and one (1) copy to your District President.

To the General Club in each category with the highest points on the rating sheet.

CATEGORY I: Myrtis Flanagan Award

CATEGORY II: Jean T Knight Award

CATEGORY III: Lavonia V. Hendrix Award

JUNIORETTE: Mary S. Smith Award

ALL CATEGORIES: Mrs. John R. Wolff Award

TO DISTRICTS BASED ON THE RATING SHEET

Past President's Cup: To the District with the highest points on the Rating Sheet.

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION REWARDS

Use Award Nomination Form as outlined below. To be awarded at GFWC-SC Convention

GFWC-SC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: GFWC-SC Volunteer of the Year is awarded to the clubwoman who has been outstanding during the club year through volunteer work in club projects and in other community work. Each club may nominate one member for this award. The nomination should be written in narrative form, five pages maximum, by someone other than the nominee and include: (A) Number of projects participated in by the nominee. Include a brief description of each club project and community project. (B) Number of hours the nominee volunteered in each club and community project. (C) Amount of monies raised in each club and community project as a result of her volunteer work. (D) A brief paragraph describing her family and employment. Narratives should be sent, along with the Nomination Form and a photograph of the nominee, to: Carrie Zimmerman, 605 White Oak Farms Rd., Tamassee, SC 29686. A panel of three (3) judges not affiliated with GFWC-SC will make the final decision.

GFWC-SC WOMAN OF DISTINCTION: A lifetime achievement award to a clubwoman judged on personal/professional accomplishments, challenges faced, demonstration of responsibility/influence, courage, humanistic contributions, philanthropic activities, community involvement, volunteer work, professional commitment, notable success and honors, and any other laudatory qualities and achievements. Each club may nominate one member. Narratives of no more than five (5) pages should be sent, along with the Nomination Form and a photograph of the nominee, via email to: Kaye Jones, clemsongirlkaye@aol.com with GFWC-SC Woman of Distinction in subject line. A committee of no less than three (3) judges unaffiliated with GFWC-SC will judge nominees.

AWARDS CREATED FOR GFWC-SC

Submit per instructions below.

Palmetto Pride Environment Achievement Awards: Due March 15. To encourage club projects to eradicate litter and beautify their communities. Three (3) awards will be given. Palmetto Pride award information and forms are available at GFWC-SC.org under More > Member Resources > (1) copy to GFWC-SC Environment Chair, Connie Holston at cholston123@outlook.com and (1) to Palmetto Pride as indicated in award information. <https://www.palmettopride.org/>

GFWC-SC GROWS NEW LEADERS AWARD: To be awarded at the annual GFWC-SC convention by Janet Prince. To each club in all club categories that sponsors a club member to attend the GFWC-SC LEADS Training each year. This includes paying for their registration fee and any other expenses associated with their attending. There is no form to complete for this award – clubs with LEADS candidates meeting the criteria specified will automatically receive this award.

ESO AWARDS

ESO Pin Designations – ESO members submit their completed book list to Carole Berenbrok, (lexotr@windstream.net)

MIDLANDS DISTRICT AWARDS, DUE MARCH 15

Submit to: Midlands District President Shelli Pue, shellipue1@gmail.com

Boineau/Brodie/Clarke Silver Project Award: For the best overall project for a club with 30 members or less.

Crook/Somerset Project Award: For the best overall project for a club with 31+ members.

Abiklaled CIP Award: Given in even years. To the club whose Community Impact Project improves the community and lives of the most diverse groups of its citizens (child and adult, rich and poor, male and female).

Addy/Samsel Education & Libraries Award: To the club with the best overall project(s) in Education & Libraries.

Bonnette Library Award: To the club with the best overall project(s) in support of libraries.

Alexander/George Advocates For Children Award: To the club with the best overall project(s) for Advocates for Children.

All Environment Award: To the club with the best overall projects in Environment.

Betty Thomason Civic Engagement & Outreach Award: To the club with the best Civic Engagement & Outreach project(s).

Keating International Children's Award: To the club with the best international children's project.

Lexington Woman's Club Legislation & Public Policy Award: To the club with the best overall project in Legislation & Public Policy.

Marine Arts & Culture Award: To the club with the best overall Arts & Culture project(s).

Junior Woman's Club of Lexington/Palmetto Woman's Club Rating Sheet Award: To the club with 30 or fewer members with the highest number of points on the Rating Sheet.

McFarland Rating Sheet Award: To the club with 31+ members with the highest number of points on the Rating Sheet.

Midlands District Membership Award: To the club with the largest net gain in membership.

Midlands District President's Spirit Award: To the club with the "Best Overall GFWC Spirit". Criteria: 1) Attendance at Summer and Winter Boards, Conventions, District Conference and District Socials; 2) Attendance of State and/or District Officers at club meetings, fundraisers, or socials; 3) Club Yearbook sent to District President and GFWC-SC First Vice President; 4) Prompt return of GFWC-SC and District dues, Rating Sheet and Club President's Directory Forms; 5) Reporting participation in all Community Service Programs.

UPSTATE DISTRICT AWARDS, DUE MARCH 15

Submit to: Upstate District President Donna Anderson, donnapanderson@charter.net

Davenport-Morgan Project Award: To the club with the best overall project.

Cassles-Dye Arts & Culture Award: To the club with the best Arts & Culture report. Criteria: (A) Averaged volunteer hours of service; (B) Projects or events constructed to promote the Arts; (C) Programs introduced to educate others about the Arts (i.e. for club meetings, schools and community events). Submit two copies, (1) to your District President and (1) to GFWC-SC Arts & Culture Chair, Elizabeth Renneker, elizabeth_kendall25@yahoo.com

Jolene W Bryant Education & Libraries Award: To the club with the best Education & Libraries report.

Making Time For Others Award: To the club with the best overall hands-on project benefitting special needs or underprivileged individuals.

Janet Agnew Photography Award: To the club with the most Photography Contest entries at the GFWC-SC state convention. Determined by number of entries delivered at convention.

Davis Cup: To the club membership of 1-13, with the highest number of points on the Rating Sheet.

Crocker-Spartanburg Award: To the club membership 14+ with the highest points on the Rating Sheet.

Mary Renfro Membership Award: To the club with the highest membership increase during the year.

DUE: TO BE DELIVERED AT CONVENTION to the designated area by noon on Friday of Convention.

GFWC-SC SCRAPBOOK CONTEST - Submissions will be in a digital book format such as Shutterfly, Mixbook, etc. Must be no larger than 12"x12" and no more than 100 pages. The scrapbook should cover the reporting year. Entries should be brought to Each entry must be registered with the 2025 Scrapbook Chairman, Elizabeth Renneker.

DUE FEBRUARY 1

GFWC NEWSLETTER CONTEST AND WEBSITE CONTEST – Please log onto GFWC.ORG for more info.

NEWSLETTER CONTEST: Only one newsletter issue per club or State Federation may be submitted. Entries will be judged and awarded points on the following elements: • Content quality, including timeliness, clarity, and member impact(30%)•Presentation(30%)•Design(30%)•Adherence to rules(10%). 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 Stylebook for GFWC Trademark Use Policies at www.GFWC.org. Newsletter entries must include the contact information of at least one member, defined as an email address, telephone number, and/or mailing address. Clubs and State Federations with an electronic newsletter must follow the same entry rules - printed copies of electronic newsletters are required. Email to: DeAna Reed Sharpe, Deana.reed@yahoo.com.

WEBSITE CONTEST: MUST include website address, Club/State Federation name, President's name and contact information, name and contact information of person submitting entry, number of Club/State Federation members, and a 250-word essay describing why their website is a valuable resource to members and potential members. The homepage MUST contain a link to GFWC.org and include contact information for at least one member of the club (email address, telephone number and/or mailing address). Email entry to Website Contest Chair, DeAna Reed Sharpe, Deana.reed@yahoo.com.

DUE MARCH 15

GFWC and GFWC-SC WRITING CONTEST ENTRIES: Please log into GFWC.ORG for more info on GFWC contests. Manuscripts will not be returned. Submit all entries for Clubwoman Writing Contests to GFWC-SC Contest Chair, Jackie Boland, jackieboland@hotmail.com, 7 Cherry Lane, West Columbia, SC 29170 803-422-2908.

GFWC YOUTH WRITING CONTEST: GFWC YOUTH WRITING CONTEST: Entries must be typed, with 1" minimum margins on top, bottom and sides, on 8.5 x 11-inch paper (one side only). If emailed, send to jackieboland@hotmail.com. Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31). Entries must have the following on the top right-hand corner of each page: (1) Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number; (2) Name of the GFWC-SC club and State Federation submitting author's work; (3) Category; (4) Title of work; (5) Page number, (6) Grade Level Category 1: Grades K, 1 & 2; Category 2: Grades 3, 4 & 5; Category 3: Grades 6, 7 & 8; Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12. Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually. Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be original. A completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver (find in the GFWC Club Manual or GFWC-SC website) must be included with each submission. Entries are limited to one per person per category. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story. Poetry entries of any style with a minimum length of 8 lines and a maximum of 50 lines. The "Six Traits of Writing" will be used in the judging of the Youth Writing Contest entries in Categories 2, 3 and 4. The "Six Traits of Writing are 1) Writing should be easy to read aloud, 2) Focus on the five senses, 3) Be unique, 4) Use paragraph breaks, 5) Gather information, and 6) Use powerful verbs. NOTE: Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.

GFWC SHORT STORY & POETRY MEMBER CONTEST: Authors must be dues paying members of an active per capita club. Entries must: Be typed, double-spaced and 1 inch minimum margins on the top, bottom and sides. If printed, be on white 8.5"x11" paper, one side only. If emailed, send to jackieboland@hotmail.com (preferred). Be written during January 1-December 31, 2024. Include the following information on the top right-hand corner of each page: (1) Author's name, email address, mailing address and phone number; (2) Name of author's GFWC-SC club; (3) Category (4) Title of work (5) Page number. All submissions must: Be from amateur authors. Earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually. Not have been published prior to the competition and must be original. Have a completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver (find in the GFWC Club Manual or GFWC-SC website) included with each submission. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story. Poetry entries of any style with a minimum length of 8 lines and a maximum of 50 lines. Entries are limited to one per member per category.

A completed, signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** (find in the GFWC Club Manual or GFWC-SC website) MUST be included with each submission.

GFWC-SC CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS: Will be given in the short story categories like, essays, prayers, club installations, song lyrics, or children's stories or in the poetry category. Each entry must be typed on a separate sheet of paper. Author's name, address, telephone number, club name and district, classification and title of writing should appear in the top right-hand corner of each page. Previous entries may not be resubmitted and only unpublished material may be entered

WRITING AWARDS TO BE DETERMINED BY ENTRIES RECEIVED (Judged by GFWC-SC Contest Chair):

Nancy Ann Morris Rivers Drama Award: To the writer of the best drama.

Emma R Lipscomb Memorial Writing Award: To the writer of the best overall entry in the GFWC-SC Creative Writing Contest.

Frances B Hair Award: To the writer of the best overall writing entry submitted in the GFWC Clubwoman Short Story and Poetry Contest.

DUE MARCH 15

GFWC & GFWC-SC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage our members' artistic expression and recognize and support members' achievements in photography. GFWC offers many opportunities to participate in the GFWC Photography Contests.

Categories:

- The World in Pictures
 - o Our World Up Close
 - o Natural Wonders
 - o Reflections
- Living the Volunteer Spirit

Submit all Photography Award entries to GFWC-SC Photography Chairman, Dianne Noda diannenoda@gmail.com.

****Photographs are to be submitted digitally.****

GFWC-SC CONVENTION ATTENDANCE AWARD

Emma McIntyre Burton Attendance Award: To the District with the largest club membership attending GFWC- SC Annual Convention as reported to the President-Elect, no later than 4:00 p.m. (or previously announced time) on the second day of Convention. Count provided by Credentials Committee and Award to be presented by 1st Vice President at Awards Banquet.

JUNIOR AWARDS

Submit to Director of Junior Clubs, Michelle Blackmon, mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com.

DUE FEBRUARY 1

Junior Cup Award: To the Junior club with the best overall written report on the year's work.

Bobbie L. Lowe Junior Award: To the Junior club with the greatest number of points earned on the Junior Honor Rating Sheet per capita. Submit Junior Honor Rating Sheet.

Mary Plyler Memorial Junior Award: To the Junior club with the most hours spent per capita on club projects, determined by the Junior Honor Rating Sheet.

Jan W. Hadwin/Beth Broom Junior Award: To the Junior club with the best overall written report on the GFWC Junior Special Project.

Ann Borris/Augusta Wolff Memorial Junior Cancer Award: To the Junior club reporting the most outstanding work in the field of cancer.

Susan Abelkop Junior Membership Award: To the Junior club with the best overall membership report. Junior Spirit Award: To the Junior club with the 'Best Overall GFWC Volunteer Spirit'. Points: 10-invitation to director of Junior Clubs and/or Director of Junior Clubs-Elect to club events (i.e. meetings, fundraisers, social); 10-club members serving on Junior Board; 10-attendance at Summer Board; 10-attendance at Winter Board; 10-attendance at Convention; 50-Junior club peer vote (may not vote for own club). To be judged by Director of Junior Clubs and awarded at Convention.

DUE MARCH 15

GFWC-SC DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS:

BE THE SPARK AWARDS:

The Blue Flame Award: will be awarded to the club completing the most outstanding work in getting children outdoors and off screens.

The Ember Award: will be awarded to the club that completes the highest number of volunteer hours in their participation of the Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, Be the Spark.

The Torch Award: will be awarded to the clubs that use collaborative efforts in their participation of the Director of Junior Clubs Special Project, Be the Spark.

Carol Vann Rowland & Susan Vann Haynes Junior Clubwoman of Achievement Award: Awarded to a Junior Clubwoman who upholds the ideals of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and Junior Clubs: A woman who is outstanding in her club and her community. The nomination should be written in narrative form by someone other than the nominee and attached to the nomination form. Each Junior Club may nominate one member. Reports should be emailed to the Director of Junior Clubs Michelle Blackmon mmichelleblackmon@gmail.com.

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Legislation and Public Policy - Raise Our United Voices

Peggy Aun, Chairman - 803.920.9124 - aunthemove@gmail.com

Did you know, GFWC continues to be recognized nationwide as a powerful grassroots organization with the structure, strength, and commitment to activate members efficiently and effectively. When we work together—well-informed and united—our collective voice truly makes an impact.

One of GFWC's current priorities is advocating for the **Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)**—a vital piece of legislation designed to protect children in digital spaces. This bill requires social media companies to uphold a **duty of care** to prevent and mitigate harm to minors on their platforms. It also compels companies to evaluate how their designs and algorithms impact children, creating a legal obligation to prioritize child safety. In a world where online risks continue to grow, KOSA represents a major step toward ensuring safer digital environments for young people.

But our work doesn't stop there. **When we Raise Our United Voices and harness the collective strength of 63,000 dedicated GFWC women, we become a catalyst for real and lasting change.**

One of the most important tools each member can use is the **Legislative Action Center (LAC)**. Signing up is essential—but responding to the alerts is what truly drives advocacy forward. Each time you send a message to your Representatives and Senators, you amplify our mission and help move critical legislation forward. Members can sign up for the Legislative Action Center at [GFWC.org](https://www.gfwc.org) under **Advocacy - Get Involved**. Past alerts are also available there to help keep you informed on ongoing issues.

Save the Date: Statehouse Visit – March 27, 2026

GFWC-SC is tentatively scheduled to visit the Statehouse on **March 27, 2026**. Please mark your calendars now!

Let's show our South Carolina legislators the power of our united voices!

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

ESO

Carol Berenbrok, Chairman - lexotr@windstream.net

SC Girlfriends ESO Book Club Report:

By the time you read this report, we would have completed a second Zoom Book Club Reading Event to discuss *Where the Rivers Merge* by Mary Alice Monroe. I just finished reading this book and I imagine we had a good discussion.

If you are interested in joining, please contact myself for an application or check out application forms on GFWC-SC website. Also check out our Facebook page – GFWC-SC Girlfriends Book Club. Remember to keep up with your book reading during the year so your report will not take long to complete.

I have recently been given three books to share by other members:

1. *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
2. *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhorn
3. *The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michells Richardson (The Kentucky GFWC is mentioned twice in this book beginning in 1913).



Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Your State Your Project

Megan Yongue Chairman

Wreaths Across America is Just Weeks Away!

Can you believe it? **National Wreaths Across America Day is December 13th - less than two weeks away!** This is your chance to be part of something truly special happening right here in South Carolina.

Don't Miss This Meaningful Opportunity

Every December, something beautiful happens across our nation. At over 4,900 locations nationwide - including three sacred sites right here in our state - volunteers gather to honor our nation's heroes by placing fresh evergreen wreaths on veterans' graves. This year, we want YOU to be part of this powerful tradition!

Mark Your Calendar: December 13, 2025

South Carolina Locations

Our state is home to three participating national cemeteries where your service will make a profound difference:

Fort Jackson National Cemetery (Columbia)

- 585 acres of hallowed ground where thousands of heroes rest
- One of the newer national cemeteries, dedicated in 2008

Beaufort National Cemetery

- One of the oldest U.S. National Cemeteries, designated by Abraham Lincoln in 1863
- Over 18,500 graves of veterans from every conflict since the Civil War

Florence National Cemetery

- Another sacred resting place for South Carolina's heroes

Time is Running Out - Here's How to Get Involved

SPONSOR A WREATH - ACT NOW! Every wreath costs just \$17, and every single one ensures a veteran won't be forgotten this holiday season. The deadline is approaching fast! Visit wreathsassamerica.org today to sponsor wreaths for our South Carolina cemeteries.

VOLUNTEER ON DECEMBER 13TH We need volunteers to help place wreaths, read names aloud, and assist families during the ceremony. This is a deeply moving experience you'll never forget. Sign up now through the Wreaths Across America website.

RALLY YOUR CLUB'S NETWORK THIS WEEK

- Share this opportunity with friends, family, and neighbors
- Post on social media about why honoring veterans matters to you
- Challenge others to match your wreath sponsorships

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Why This Matters - Especially Now

As we approach the holiday season, imagine a veteran's grave sitting bare while families celebrate nearby. That's what makes Wreaths Across America so important. When you sponsor a wreath or volunteer your time, you're saying: "Your sacrifice matters. You are not forgotten. Thank you."



The Mission: Remember, Honor, Teach

- **Remember** the fallen and their sacrifice for our freedom
- **Honor** those who serve and their families
- **Teach** our children the value of freedom

GFWC's Proud Role in This Mission

As GFWC members, we've built a legacy of service that spans over 135 years. GFWC clubs nationwide partner with veterans' organizations to make National Wreaths Across America Day ceremonies meaningful and impactful. This is our chance to carry forward that proud tradition of honoring those who served.

The Clock is Ticking - Don't Wait!

With December 13th fast approaching, now is the time to commit. Whether you sponsor one wreath or ten, volunteer for an hour or the whole day, your participation matters immensely.

Take These Steps RIGHT NOW:

1. Visit wreathsafteramerica.org and sponsor at least one wreath
2. Register to volunteer at your nearest South Carolina location
3. Share this article with five people who would want to participate
4. Put December 13th in your calendar and invite family members to join you

Remember: A wreath is more than a decoration - it's a symbol of honor, respect, and remembrance that says we will never forget.



Between now and January 7, you can send a free holiday e-card with a personalized message. It's quick and easy—just click the links below to choose your card and share your warm wishes:

[Spread holiday cheer: Cards for hospitalized kids - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)
[Envía una tarjeta navideña a los niños de St. Jude - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for St. Jude families!

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Connie Holston, Environment Community Service Program Chairman

734-751-3743 - cholston@outlook.com



The information below is to serve as ideas for your club to find a variety of ways to help improve the environment in your community. You can choose one project and do it continuously or you can choose several projects and utilize club members, neighbors, school children, other organizations, etc. to help organize projects that will create a cleaner, safer, more beautiful area for all to live in. Below are just a few examples. Make it fun and make it doable for all ages and skill sets. I'm sure there is something that everyone will be able to participate in and ultimately feel a sense of pride in the results.

Clean up Trash and Litter....Everywhere; take a plastic bag, gloves, and a picker with you wherever you go; even on a walk around the neighborhood.

Recycle....Learn what items can be recycled in your area and try to dispose of them properly.

Donate or Sell old Clothing....Veterans in need, Housing Shelters, Churches who help the homeless, Nursing Homes all have needs for specific it.

Do whatever you can to help recycle as much as possible by the end of 2025. Take advantage of this so you can include those numbers on the attached forms for the Palmetto Pride Achievement Awards form. Watch for the official information from Carrie Zimmerman, but this information is normally due by February 1 or March 15 at the latest.

Good luck!!

Dianne McIntosh McCarty Health and Wellness Service Program Chairman

803-553-1189 - diannemccarty@gmail.com



Health and Wellness will certainly be different as we age. We all have personal devices that measure our blood pressure, temperature, heart rate, blood sugar levels, beds that measure our sleep rhythm and REM sleep, and devices that tell us how many steps we walk in a day. The seven domains of wellness are: physical, social, occupational, emotional, intellectual, environmental and spiritual.

The four types of health related to wellness are: physical, mental, emotional and social.

There are nine (9) simple ways to improve your health. (1) De-stress. Exercise and meditate. (2) Use less salt. (3) Go to bed earlier and get up earlier. (4) Good posture. Sit up straight. (5) Do a crossword puzzle - use your brain. (6) Weigh once a week. (7) Make some dietary substitutions. (8) Take the stairs - walking is free. (9) Stretch before you get out of bed in the morning. You will feel better immediately.

The good news is that it is never too early or too late to adopt **Healthy** habits and help to stay **Well**. Remember to call or write if I can help you and your club stay **Healthy and Well**.

Also, please remember to report all the great work that you do and include hours and dollars spent and to especially note time and dollars to GFWC affiliates.

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Communications and Public Relations

Tina Majors, Chairman

**DID YOU KNOW....
THAT YOU CAN “BRAND” THE GFWC EMBLEM WITH YOUR CLUB NAME?
AND YOU HAVE OPTIONS!**



These are perfect for name tags, shirts/aprons/vests, banners, press releases —so many uses!

(Be aware that users cannot download transparent background files unless they are CANVA PRO users. CANVA PRO is free for nonprofits that have their own Tax ID—must register using your club name, not GFWC National.)

To access:

- *Open your CANVA PRO account in one browser. *In another browser, go to gfwc.org *Sign in under member log-in.
- *Go to digital library.
- *Search for emblem.
- *Scroll about halfway down the page till you see: Customize the GFWC logo with your club name.
- *Click: Customize on CANVA.

Some things to remember:

- *Use (30pt Horizontal and 16pt Vertical) font on your club name. Remove [] when finished.
- *Capitalize each word. Do not use ALL CAPS unless it is on your official club charter.
- *If your club name is longer than 30 characters, use two lines.
- *Using GFWC in front of your name is not necessary in this format.
- *Keep the color font used on each template.

Once Finished:

- *When you've added your club's name to all the templates, it's time to export them!
- *Select "SHARE"
- *Then "DOWNLOAD".
- *Select PNG under "File Type".
- *Select Transparent Background if you are a CANVA PRO user. All other files will have a white or color background.
- *Select the pages you would like to download and save the files on your computer.

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention

Connie Lawson, Chairman

I'd like to express my gratitude to all the Clubs across South Carolina for all your creative ideas and hard work related to our Signature Program Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention. You focused on domestic and sexual violence for our International Day of Service, then continued on during the month of October, to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month sharing survivor resources on your social media pages, hosting and participating in domestic violence awareness walks, and supporting the work of so many varied organizations.

As you know, GFWC South Carolina partnered with SCCADVASA (South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) to run two educational social media campaigns, one focused on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, leading up to the International Day of Service and the other to raise awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This partnership not only distributed numerous domestic violence/sexual assault messages along with resources but also increased our state federation's visibility and reputation as a strong advocate. Thank you for your help in achieving the following results during those campaigns:

International Day of Service

From September 21-27, 2025, we posted twice daily on Facebook and Instagram.

The results were:

Facebook: 7 messages posted 13 times
10,195 total views 4,864 estimated reach
308 interactions (likes, comments, shares) **Instagram:** 7 messages posted 7 times 383
total views 216 estimated reach 39 interactions .

Thank you messages were posted to registered clubs:

Facebook: 25 thank you posts 6,718 total views 3,293 estimated reach 267
interactions
Instagram: 25 thank you posts 1,366 total views 675 estimated reach 120 interactions

Additionally, we made 4 unique posts referencing IDS:

Facebook: 4 posts 2,801 total views 1,221 estimated reach 119 interactions **Instagram:** 2 posts 90 total
views 29 estimated reach 9 interactions

Domestic Violence Awareness Month During the month of October, Monday through Friday, we posted twice daily on Facebook and Instagram. The results were:

Facebook: 23 posts, 11,315 views, 5,809 reach
328 interactions (likes, comments, shares)

Instagram: 23 posts, 1,154 views, 667 reach
110 interactions

Unfortunately, Domestic Violence is a topic that is not going away anytime soon, and I would like to ask each club to start thinking about and planning for February 2026 considering ways your club can help to prevent Teen Dating Violence

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Romantic relationships between teenagers are incredibly complicated and riddled with problems including communication, jealousy, and selflessness. As a result, teenagers are more likely to be involved in relationships that are unhealthy, violent, and/or abusive.

Reg Flags often seen in Teenage Relationships:

- Excessive jealousy or insecurity;
- Invasions of privacy;
- Unexpected bouts of anger or rage;
- Unusual moodiness;
- Pressuring a partner into unwanted sex; Blaming their partner for problems in the relationship and not taking any responsibility for the same;
- Controlling tendencies;
- Explosive temper;
- Preventing a partner from going out with or talking to other people;
- Constantly monitoring their partners whereabouts and checking in to see what they are doing and who they are with;
- Falsely accusing of things;
- Vandalizing or ruining their partner's personal property;
- Taunting or bullying; or Threatening or causing physical violence.

Resources to help you include:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov

Freedom House www.freedomhouseillinois.org

Office on Violence Against Women www.justice.gov/ovw/dating-violence

Safe Place www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-dating-violence

GFWC Photography Competition

Dianne Noda

Entries in the photography competition must be photos taken between January 1 and December 31, 2025. You can use a camera or a phone camera.

There are four categories:

Living the Volunteer Spirit - its what we do everyday! Find significant moments at club events.

Natural Wonders - the beautiful world around us! No explanation needed.

Reflections - have fun and get creative! You could use a mirror, a puddle, a lake. Lots of possibilities.

The World up Close - seek out the details! Get zoomed in! A cute bug? A flower?

Entries must be received by April 1, 2026.

It's easy to submit your photos digitally. Send photographs to: diannenoda@gmail.com

Subject: GFWC Photography Contest.

Looking forward to seeing all of your entries!

**In case you missed it, we are sharing Suzanne's article that appeared in
GFWC's News & Notes of September 25, 2025.**

Preserve Our Birds

By Suzanne Carswell
President, GFWC South Carolina

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy famously said, "If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environment problems in the world." Alarming, a 2019 study revealed that North America has lost 3 billion birds (29% of its population) since 1970. GFWC South Carolina's President's Special Project, Preserve Our Birds, hopes to address this decline, one member, one club, one state at a time.

Habitat loss is the primary factor in this decline, along with climate change, window collisions, wind turbines, and pesticide pollution. Restoring natural habitats is vital, and native plants play a crucial role. In April 2025, Senate Resolution 157 passed, designating April 2025 as National Native Plant Month. GFWC South Carolina was proud to lend our name as a supporter of this legislation. However, since it's a resolution and not a law, reintroduction annually is necessary, and GFWC state federations can advocate for making it permanent. <https://nationalnativeplantmonth.org>

GFWC Clubs can make a difference by acting:

EDUCATE: Raise awareness about birds, native plants, pesticide impacts, and bird-proofing measures like decals and screens.

ENGAGE: Promote bird-friendly legislation. Join initiatives like the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (February 13-16, 2026).

EMPOWER: Create bird-friendly spaces by planting trees and native flora, setting up feeders, and providing water. Support conservation efforts through donations or volunteer projects.

Through education, engagement, and direct action, GFWC clubs can play a pivotal role in preserving bird populations and fostering a healthier environment. We hope you will join GFWC South Carolina in helping to Preserve Our Birds.



Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

Dianne Noda
Chapin Woman's Club



Jay Keck
South Carolina Wildlife Federation

Advancement Plans, Special Projects, Special Appointments & CSPs

RESOLUTIONS

Caroline Mahaffey, Chairman

Resolutions are the basis for our advocacy. Those passed at the local level may only pertain to local issues, and would not be appropriate for forwarding to the state. Others may only be appropriate for consideration at the state level. Some issues are national issues, making it appropriate to forward to the GFWC Resolutions Committee.

Resolutions passed by your club which are appropriate for state and national consideration, along with a copy of the minutes where they were passed at the local club meeting should be e-mailed to Caroline Mahaffey at rrealestcm@aol.com by December 31, 2025. Please include contact information for your club's resolution chair.

Introducing the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club

A New Virtual Book Club Opportunity for Women Everywhere

About the Club

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of South Carolina (GFWC-SC) is excited to announce the formation of a new cyber club: the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club. This innovative club will operate exclusively online, making it accessible to women from any location who share a passion for reading and promoting literacy.

Club Focus and Activities

The primary purpose of the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club is to bring together women who love books and wish to support literacy through community service. As both a book club and an ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) club, our central service project will be donating books. We envision connecting the themes of donated books to meaningful causes and events, such as:

- The GFWC President's Special Project
- The Junior Director's Special Project
- International Day of Service
- Advocates for Children's Week
- Topics from state meetings' guest speakers
- National holidays, etc.

Of course, all final decisions regarding club activities and service projects will be made collectively by club members.

Who Can Join?

Membership is open to any woman, regardless of age or location, who is interested in reading and promoting literacy. If you have friends, family members, or colleagues—whether in South Carolina or across the country—who might be interested, please invite them to join! This club is especially ideal for:

- Women who are homebound, caregivers, or unable to travel
- Young mothers
- Busy professionals or frequent travelers
- Current GFWC members seeking more flexible participation

Introducing the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club

- Sustaining and at-large members looking for regular engagement
- Those with a passion for reading and promoting literacy

The virtual format also allows for the exciting possibility of having authors join our meetings to discuss their work with us.

How It Works

The club will meet monthly via a user-friendly online platform such as Zoom. This flexible approach ensures that members can participate from the comfort of their own homes or wherever they might be.

The annual membership fee is \$27, the same as state membership dues. Dues are payable initially to GFWC-SC Treasurer, Katie Whitten 24 Beaufort Shores Court, Prosperity, SC 29127.

kqwhitten@gmail.com 803-370-0518

Get Involved

If you are interested in joining or know someone who might be, please contact Kaye Jones, Membership Chairman and GFWC-SC President-elect. We have a volunteer for Club President and are seeking volunteers for the roles of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer to help get the club fully federated. Bylaws are being drafted based on the successful framework shared by Dreammakers of GFWC, our state's only true cyber club.

Join Us as a Founding Member!

We invite you to help spread the word and consider becoming a founding member of the GFWC Girlfriends Service Book Club. Our goal is to officially federate the club by the end of 2025. Remember, you can belong to more than one club, so don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow book lovers and make a difference!

For more information or to express your interest, again, please reach out to Kaye Jones, clemsongirlkaye@aol.com

Let's make this dream a reality—one book and one friendship at a time!

GFWC-SC 2026 LEADS Saturday, February 21, 2026

Have you been to LEADS yet? Have you been to LEADS and want to come again? Great!!!

The GFWC-SC 2026 LEADS will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Woman's Club of Cayce Clubhouse, 701 Oakland Avenue, Cayce, SC 29033

We will start the day at 8:30 a.m. for registration and refreshments. We will have a packed day of leadership ideas to share with you that you can take back to your club and implement almost immediately starting at 9:00 a.m. We will have lunch and will wrap up our day by 3:00 p.m.

On Friday, February 20th, we will take a tour of our GFWC-SC Headquarters at 5:30 p.m. and then go out to a nice dinner together.

Applications are due to Janet Prince by February 7, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet at jhprince@aol.com

GFWC SOUTH CAROLINA LEADS 2025 APPLICATION FORM

February 21, 2026

Woman's Club of Cayce Clubhouse

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 \$35 Materials/Meal Fee or \$60 for two from each club and must be postmarked by February 7, 2026, and submitted to:

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



GFWC-SC WOMEN IN BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP FORM Due December 31, 2025

Women in Business Sponsorship is the best way to support GFWC-SC and advertise your business statewide.

Your sponsorship provides the following:

- Quarter page ad in the GFWC-SC Convention Program
- Business information displayed on the GFWC-SC Website
- Ongoing business placement on the bimonthly membership newsletter
- Recognition on the GFWC-SC social media pages.

What we need from you: 1) Your business card for all of the above sources (immediately).

2) A request will be made for the ¼ page ad for the convention program closer to the event.

Name: _____

Club Name: _____

District: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

2025 Fee* (due 12/31/2025): \$250.00

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

***This fee is for TWO years. If you do not participate in 2024 and decide to participate in 2025, the fee will be \$250.00 and due 12/31/2025.**

Make the check Payable to: GFWC-SC

Mail check and business card to: Kaye Jones
GFWC-SC 1st Vice President
205 Westbury Lane
Columbia, SC 29212

**BOOK NOW FOR CONVENTION 2026!
JOIN US IN MYRTLE BEACH AT THE WONDERFUL
MARINA INN at GRANDE DUNES!**



An online booking tool has also been set up for GFWC South Carolina. You may book online by visiting <http://marinainnatgrandedunes.com/> and clicking on Group Reservations (Scroll to the very bottom and it is on the right hand side) **Use Group Code and Password of 'WOMEN26' Group code and Password are the same.**

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

The total cost per night with all taxes and fees included:

2 Queens or 1 King: \$206.62
2 Bedroom/2 Bath Suite: \$297.62 (easily sleeps 4-6, so splitting eases the fees)

Please make reservations no later than the cut-off date of March 25, 2026.



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



Saturday, January 17, 2026

Via ZOOM

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 Winter Board Session

2026 Winter Report from Board of Directors Meeting Report, Reporting Workshop Q & A, GFWC Progress Foundation Grants, Updates from District Presidents, Information on 2026 Convention, Information on LEADS and MORE!

SPEAKER: Beth Perkins, Principal Advisor, Partnership Development & Stewardship
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (GFWC Affiliate Organization)



1:00 p.m. Adjourn

Junior Board Meeting

Registration Information

Winter Board Registration Fee: \$25

Late Fee: after 1/11/2026: \$15

All Registration will be done via Zeffy. The link can be found on

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

Dates To Remember

December 10, 2025
GFWC Holiday Reception



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

January 5
National Bird Day

February 13-16, 2026
Big Backyard Bird Count

February 21, 2026
GFWC-SC LEADS

March 27, 2026
Legislation Day

April 17-19, 2026
GFWC-SC Convention

The Waking

Rising, we pull aside curtains,
To gasp at the perfect power in which we have had no hand.

Whiteness softens our world to quietly end every harsh thought.
Slumber, then Snow, has delivered Morning Magic,
A downy blanket as sweet as any we knew as a child.

Today is no longer an ordinary day,
because we are confident once again
that our world can bring solace and grace and joy-filled beauty
when we need it most.



Janet R. Smalley
GFWC-SC Poet Laureate