

JENNIE AWARD

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

THE GFWC JENNIE AWARD HONORS ONE CLUBWOMAN FROM EACH GFWC REGION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO CLUB, COMMUNITY, AND FAMILY.

"I have never done anything that was not helpful to women, so far as it lay in my power." - Jane Cunningham Croly (placed on grave marker dedicated at GFWC's Centennial in 1991)

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at State, Regional, and National levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Since it is an award for lifetime personal excellence, club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians or members of long-standing for Jennie Award nominees. Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible as it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders.

The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page of this section and may be downloaded from the GFWC Member Portal.



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 JENNIE AWARD

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Cookeville, TN 38501
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JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The definition of a family member may include persons who are older or younger than the nominee. It may include immediate as well as extended family members. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the well-being, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an ongoing basis, separate and apart, from club and community work.

COMMITMENT TO GFWC

The nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement, not only in terms of her club's volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her effort to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteerism. She should be kind, loyal, and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment should be continuous, rather than a one-time occurrence.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond GFWC club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g. schools, hospitals, an elected/ appointed position, scouts, etc.) and the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteer work.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to recognizing the outstanding achievements of a club member, an important reason for participating in the GFWC Jennie Award is the tremendous public relations impact it may have on the club, State, Regional, and National levels. Below are some public relations suggestions for each stage during the 2024-2026 Administration:

CLUB

GFWC encourages clubs to recognize one member each administration who has excelled not only in club duties but in their personal life and in the community. Once your club selects its GFWC Jennie Award nominee and is ready to submit its narrative describing a nominee's qualifications, a news release or article about your nominee should be submitted to local media outlets. Consider holding a ceremony during a club meeting and inviting a reporter to cover the event or sending a photo and caption of the session to local media. GFWC clubs may submit only one Jennie Award nominee to their State.

STATE

State Presidents should appoint a state GFWC Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process. State Presidents or Chairmen who receive multiple entries for review should form an outside panel of judges comprised of leading citizens to assist in selecting the single state nominee. This stage offers an opportunity to honor all nominees, either at a state meeting in summer 2025, or at another appropriate venue, such as your State Convention, where each finalist is awarded a special certificate. Reporters should be invited to cover the awards event, or a photo and caption of the event should be sent to relevant media.

REGION

Region Presidents should consider appointing a Jennie Award Chairman to assist in publicizing and managing the award process, including assisting the Region President in choosing a committee of outside judges to help select the two regional finalists whose applications will be forwarded to GFWC Headquarters for consideration at the national level. The Region President and/or Jennie Awards Chairman should plan an event to honor all state nominees in their Region during the 2025 Region Conferences. Honor all state nominees from the Region and make them feel special by introducing them to the attendees, presenting special certificates to each one, and offering photo opportunities that they can share with their local media.

Reminder– Region entries to GFWC Headquarters must be postmarked by December 1, 2025. GFWC will prepare certificates for the 16 Region finalists and highlight them in the Spring 2026 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

NATIONAL

At the time of the awards ceremony during the GFWC Annual Convention in June 2026, which all eight national honorees are expected to attend, a news release will be issued by GFWC to major U.S. newspapers as well as to media in the states, cities, and regions of all eight honorees. Clubs and State Federations with GFWC Jennie Award medal recipients, as well as each GFWC Region, should also take the opportunity to inform their local media about the national honor. Club Communications and Public Relations Chairmen of the national recipients should notify local officials and organizations such as the mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, and state elected officials to arrange photo opportunities and recognition events.

The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page of this section and may be downloaded from the GFWC Member Portal.

AWARD RULES

Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria above for this award.

- The nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Her tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive not concurrent.
- GFWC Executive Officers (past or present) are not eligible for nomination.
- Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- Clubs must complete and submit by June 1, 2025, the GFWC Jennie Award Nomination that contains no more than **25 pages total** (printed single-spaced) of required documents and supportive materials including the following:
 - **Title Page** - Cover sheet that could include basic information as:
 - GFWC Jennie Award Nomination 2024-2026 as heading
 - Nominee's Name, Club Name, State Federation
 - Picture (if desired)
 - **Letter of Introduction** - Provide information about the nominee that describes the reason for the nomination. Maximum of 500 words.
 - **Official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form** which includes narrative descriptions of the nominee's:
 - **Commitment to Family** - To her nuclear or extended family. Maximum of 250 words.
 - **Commitment to GFWC Club** - Through involvement in activities. Maximum of 250 words.

- **Commitment to Community** - Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional. Maximum of 250 words.
- **Digital color photograph** of nominee (high-resolution/300 dots per inch or pixels per inch) submitted for use by GFWC
Note: If the photo does not meet the required specifications, it will not be used.
- **Clips** of two or three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name).
- **Letter of Endorsement** from the club president
- **Letter of Endorsement** from a representative of another organization
- Nomination packet, including all forms, supporting materials, and photographs, will not be returned.
- The 16 Region Finalists will be featured in the Spring 2026 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.
- One clubwoman from each of the eight GFWC Regions will be selected for national recognition as a GFWC Jennie Award honoree and is expected to attend the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- All eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded roundtrip transportation to attend the June 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

CALENDAR

August 2024 - State Presidents/Region Presidents

Encourage clubs to start looking for candidates to propose.

Announce the call for nominations at state meetings and publish reminders in newsletters, magazines, social media, and emails.

June 1, 2025 - Clubs

Submit nomination materials (1 per club) to respective State President, POSTMARKED by this date.

August 1, 2025 - State Presidents

Submit nomination materials (1 per State) to respective GFWC Region President, POSTMARKED by this date.

December 1, 2025 - Region Presidents

Submit nomination materials (2 per Region) to GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990, POSTMARKED by this date.

March 2026 - 16 Region Finalists

Featured in *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

March/April 2026

GFWC National Selection Committee Meets.

June 2026

One clubwoman from each of the 8 Regions will be chosen as a National Jennie Award honoree. All eight are expected to attend and will be honored at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. A special remembrance and certificate will be presented to the honorees by the GFWC International President and GFWC Jennie Award Chairman.





Follow instructions in the Award Rules for completing the Nomination along with required documents and supportive materials. Please attach a Letter of Introduction with a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using 12-point Arial font, and one-inch margins on all four sides.

1. NOMINEE

Please note that the nominee must attend the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, if selected as a national award winner.

Nominee Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

Club

Current State Federation

Year Nominee Joined GFWC

First State Federation

Region

2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON

Nominator/Contact Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

3. COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Include examples separate and apart from GFWC club and community work. 250 word limit



4. COMMITMENT TO CLUB

Name(s) of project(s), duration, and results, if any, including leadership and positions held. *250 word limit*

5. COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Non-GFWC club service, names of the organization(s), titles held, unique approach to volunteer service. *250 word limit*

Clubs: Submit the title page, completed nomination form, letter of introduction, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials by **June 1, 2025**, to your State President. Please note: materials will NOT be returned.

Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman (Deborah Allen, debgfwc@gmail.com) or the GFWC Programs Department with any questions: 1-800-443-GFWC or ***Programs@GFWC.org***.

