

# GFWC TEXAS CLUBWOMAN



## Newsletter

The Newsletter of GFWC Texas; Proud Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2024



### GFWC Texas Officers 2024 - 2026

President  
Barbara Harvey

President-elect  
Novella Byrd

First  
Vice President  
Kathy Horak  
Smith

Second  
Vice President  
Katherine Hajek

Recording  
Secretary  
Nancy Snead

Treasurer  
Dianne Amerine

Parliamentarian  
Patricia Tate

TFWC HF  
Chairman  
Therese Crocker

Scholarship  
Committee Chair  
Terri Kennedy

## The Torch is Passed



### GFWC Texas Officers 2024 - 2026

(Left to Right:) Terri Kennedy, Scholarship Chair; Therese Crocker, TFWC HF Chair; Patricia Tate, Parliamentarian; Diane Amerine, Treasurer; Nancy Snead, Secretary; Katherine Hajek, Second Vice President; Kathy Horak Smith, First Vice President; Novella Byrd, President-elect; and Barbara Harvey, President.





*From the desk of  
Barbara Harvey,*

*President*



*Texas*

As your 63<sup>rd</sup> president, I embark on the GFWC Texas 2024-2026 Administration with shared excitement and anticipation. Together, we can achieve great things in the next two years.

The theme for this administration, "It's not where you start; it's where you finish," is a testament to our collective power. Like the butterfly that will symbolize this administration, we can transform and achieve greatness from humble beginnings.

My project for this administration is human trafficking. To make a difference in this horrible epidemic, we will partner with GFWC Affiliate Organization Hope for Justice, sponsor a day at the capitol to bring awareness to the situation to Texas legislators and work with local organizations to support survivors of trafficking.

During the last administration, the Strategic Planning Committee worked to develop a strategic plan to focus our activities on meeting GFWC Texas's goals. It is time to ensure we perform the necessary tasks to meet those goals. This will require communicating with all members to ensure they understand their role. The summer workshops will focus on this as the executive committee travels across the state.

As members of this organization, we may not change the world, but we can change our attitude toward it. We can do something about improving our particular corner of it. We can take a project and work on it. Every single one of us has something unique to offer. It may be leadership qualities; it may be a listening ear. It could be that we have a list of the right contacts. My challenge as President is to use all your talents for the benefit of GFWC Texas. Let's all work to engage all members to use their talents to enhance our volunteer efforts to improve our world.

We all need laughter, brightness, and fun. I will attempt to ensure we have fun as we work hard to meet our goals. The water we are entering may be smooth or rough. We will undoubtedly face storms from time to time. We may lose some members while others jump in to join us. Whatever our organization does, I hope we are headed for a better shore.

In Federation,

*Barbara Harvey*

Barbara Harvey  
GFWC Texas 63<sup>rd</sup> President



# *The Close of One Administration as Another Begins*



(Left) GFWC International Past President Deb Strahanoski of Illinois (2022-2024) and (Right) GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil of Alabama (2024-2026) as they co-adjourn the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago.



## **2024-2026 GFWC Executive Committee**

(L to R): GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil of Alabama; GFWC President-elect Wendy Carriker of North Carolina; First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth of Florida; Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams of Colorado; Secretary Dr. Susan Gettys of Missouri; Treasurer Juliet Casper of South Carolina; and Direct of Junior Clubs Shannon Bailey of Florida.



# FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members,

I am so excited to welcome you to the 2024-2026 administration. I am deeply honored to serve as your 55<sup>th</sup> GFWC International President during this pivotal period, in which historic progress can and will be made. I encourage you to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities available to you.

Service and personal development have been central to our mission for 134 years. Through these lies the concept of the "circle of influence" – a dynamic sphere within which our actions radiate outward, touching lives and effecting change. Within this circle, as symbolized on our emblem, we find our power to transform, uplift, and inspire. As members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, each of us occupies a unique position within this circle, endowed with the capacity to enact meaningful change and to leave an indelible mark upon the world.

Under the banner of "Educate, Engage, Empower," let us work to empower individuals from all walks of life, providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to shape our future. Through education, we open the doors to opportunities and encourage a culture of lifelong learning. Increased engagement creates meaningful connections and fosters a sense of belonging. Empowerment encourages others to become catalysts of change, amplifying the scope and impact of our collective endeavors.

As we step into this new administration, our Strategic Plan has been meticulously crafted to guide our focused efforts. Our leaders have prepared an incredible Club Manual, a treasure trove of ideas, tools, and tips for grassroots involvement. Take full advantage of this powerful resource to aid our growth and development.

Together, as we embark on this new chapter, hold fast to the values that define our organization—camaraderie, collaboration, and commitment to changing lives through volunteer service. Celebrate our diverse perspectives and experiences, recognizing that it is through our differences that we find our strength. Our potential for undefined progress is limitless when we unite and advocate with one voice and excellent clarity. Be bold as we reimagine all that GFWC can become.

Together In Living the Volunteer Spirit,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Suellen B. Brazil'.

Suellen B. Brazil  
GFWC International President



# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

Dear Fellow GFWC Sisters,

What an honor it is to welcome you to the 2024-2026 Administration as the 37th GFWC Director of Junior Clubs! I look forward to serving alongside you all as we continue the impactful work for which we are known. GFWC Clubwomen are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service, and we are passionate, creative, and untiring advocates as we work together. I love that we also have so much fun and build wonderful relationships with each other while we work hard!

The guiding concept for the Junior Administration will be **"Stronger Together."** We are stronger when we work together at all three levels of GFWC membership: Women's Clubs, Juniors, and Juniorettes. Our multi-generational membership is truly one of the benefits of belonging, and we can accomplish so much **together**. We will support existing Junior clubs and charter new Junior clubs nationwide. We will empower State Directors of Junior Clubs and encourage and equip Junior clubs in states without Directors. We will utilize technology to help ALL Junior members feel connected to GFWC and to each other, including learning about the numerous resources available to all members. We will participate in the goals and vision of the GFWC Strategic Plan and continue to promote and develop the Junior Certification Program available to all Junior and Juniors clubs.

Advocates for Children continues to be the Juniors' Special Program. We will encourage clubs to plan projects for their favorite local organizations and/or March of Dimes, St. Jude's, and Prevent Child Abuse America. We will celebrate Advocates for Children Week the fourth week of October and encourage all clubs to participate. More information about the Juniors' Special Program is available in the GFWC Club Manual.

I am at your service, along with the entire GFWC Junior leadership, to help engage clubs at all membership levels in celebrating our rich history while looking ahead to a strong future for GFWC. As we work together, we are **Stronger Together!**

In Junior Love,

Shannon Bailey, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs

# Calendar of Events

*July - September 2025*

## **2024**

- 
- July 27 Trinity Summer Workshop.
- August 3 Pioneer Summer Workshop, Tarelton State University, Stephenville.
- August 10 Magnolia Summer Workshop.
- August 17 South Texas Summer Workshop.
- September 20-21 GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Austin.
- September 28 Magnolia Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- September 28 Alamo Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- October 5 Pioneer Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Pilot Point.
- October 10-13 GFWC South Central Region Meeting, Downtown, Oklahoma City, OK.
- October 19 South Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- October 23 Capitol Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- October 26 Trinity Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- November 2 Caprock Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
- December 4 GFWC Holiday Open House, Washington, D.C.

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## 2025

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- January 20-21 GFWC Texas HF and GFWC Texas EC Meeting, Austin, Texas.
- March 1 Alamo Spring Convention.
- March 15 South Texas Spring Convention.
- March 22 Magnolia Spring Convention.
- March 29 Pioneer Spring Convention.
- April 2 Capitol Spring Convention.
- April 5 Caprock Spring Convention.
- April 12 Trinity Spring Convention.
- April 23-26 GFWC Texas Spring Convention, Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi.
- June 5 - 9 GFWC Annual Convention, Omni Atlanta CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia.
- June 26 Capitol Summer Workshop.
- July 21-22 GFWC Texas HF and GFWC Texas EC Meeting, Austin, Texas.
- September 4-7 GFWC South Central Region Meeting, Courtyard SA, Riverwalk, San Antonio.
- September 26-27 GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Austin.

**Calendar will be updated each Newsletter.**

# GFWC Texas 2024 SPRING CONVENTION

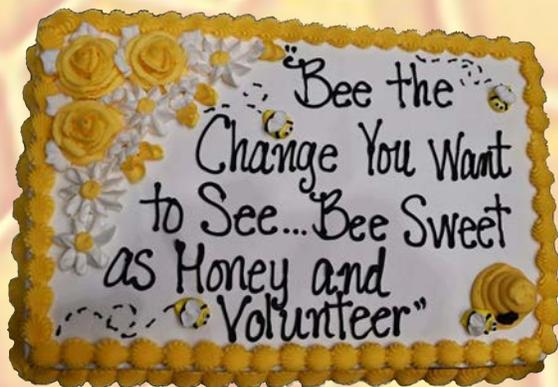
McKinney Sheraton, McKinney, Texas  
April 24-27, 2024

Wednesday



DINNER and BINGO  
With the BINGO BABES





Let THEM eat cake!



THURSDAY  
TOURING DOWNTOWN MCKINNEY



TOUR OF HISTORICAL HOMES



LUNCHEON  
WHILE ON TOUR





Introduction of Head Table dignitaries.



GFWC Texas President Billie Williams introduced at Opening.



Gwendolyn Caviness (above left) was selected as L.E.A.D.S. for GFWC Texas. Beth Hemby (above right) made the presentation.



Beth Hemby (above center) was named Outstanding Clubwoman Volunteer.



Friday



GFWC Treasurer Becky Wright (above left) enters with GFWC Texas President Billie Williams.



A Toast!





Reports given in Bee Keeper's gear.

Style Show with clothes provided by Chico's



A jungle skit where GFWC Texas President Billie Williams takes part (above and below).



Pioneer District's Lynn Long receives the coveted GFWC Texas Jennie June Award for her service.

Saturday



Thank You,

Madam President!



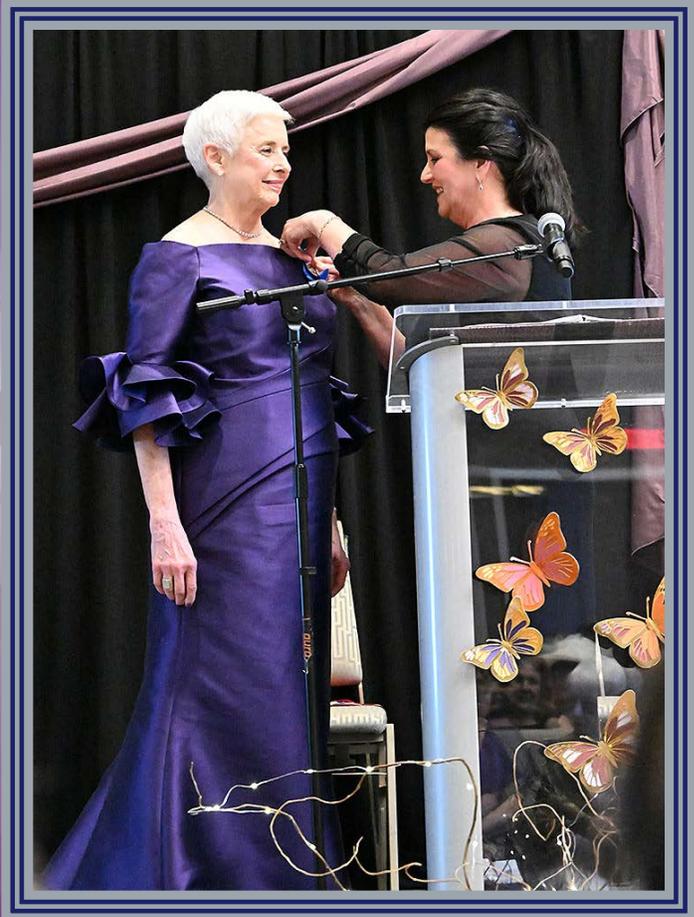
# Saturday's Installation



GFWC Treasurer Becky Wright and GFWC Texas President Billie Willams in Processional.



Becky Wright presents the President's Pin to Barbara Harvey during her Installation Ceremony.



Wright pins the President's Pin on GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey.



Congratulations President Harvey.



President Harvey gives her speech after the Installation.



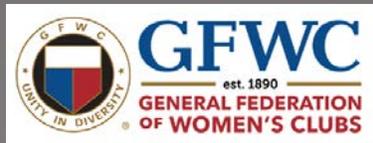
(Left) As customary, outgoing President Williams and newly installed President Harvey take and strike the gavel together and close the 2024 GFWC Texas Convention.



# GFWC TEXAS



## 2024 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION



JUNE 28 - JULY 1  
HILTON CHICAGO



ROARING TWENTIES  
WAS A DINNER THEME  
ONE EVENING.





**(Above) GFWC Texas President Billie Williams follows the Texas state flag into the general assembly at the beginning of the business session. GFWC Texas President - elect Barbara Harvey serves as flag bearer.**



**GFWC Texas 2016-2018 Past President Patti Poe (left) presented the "Thought of the Day" during the GFWC 2024 Convention Opening Business Session.**



Carol Hapgood is recognized for her generous contribution to the Domestic Violence Program.



2024 GFWC International Convention Charlotte Emerson Brown Award given to state presidents. GFWC Texas President, Billie Williams (above center) was recognized in the morning business session on Monday, July 1, 2024.



Heifer International recognized GFWC Texas for its' contributions to their organization.



Patti Poe (above center) is installed as Secretary of South Central Region at the SCR dinner.



Christi Melton (left center) is recognized at the South Central Region's dinner as a first time attendee.



## Lynn Long Selected For 2024 GFWC Jennie June Award

The highest individual recognition any GFWC member can receive is the Jennie June Award on the national level. Our own Lynn Long, Decatur Woman's Club member for the last 33 years was recognized with this honor at the recent GFWC Convention. When Lynn was 13 years old, she served as a page for a Texas Region Convention and decided at that time that she wanted to be a member of the group when she was an adult. Not only did she become a member, she became an outstanding member serving on the local, district, state, regional and national levels. She has dedicated much of her life to the purposes of GFWC and continues to be active today, even while being confined to a wheelchair. Lynn was named the Texas representative, then was named as one of two finalists for South Central Region last fall at the Regional Conference in Albuquerque. She recently was named the single representative for the Region and a national winner at the GFWC Convention held in Chicago last month. Congratulations Lynn on an honor well-deserved. Thank you for your love and commitment to this organization. We are proud that you are a member of GFWC Texas Pioneer District.

Ladies,

This is my first newsletter and my hopes are that it will evolve into being a successful venture for GFWC Texas in its' desire to reach and strengthen ties with membership. Let's work harder to being a connected body!

We are working out the details as we go. Be patient!

Pictures submitted need to be JPEGs sent to my email address. Other information needs to be a word document and also sent to my email address. And, please send the names of your members who have passed recently with their club name and district. I really feel that's one of the last things we can do for that member in gratitude to their service to our organization.

I want to acknowlege and thank Karen Vaughn, Angela Short, and GFWC for the use of their pictures from the GFWC Texas Spring Convention and the GFWC Annual Convention. My not being in attendance resulted in not having pictures tagged with names. That will improve! Also, I want this to become a real newsletter and not just a photo album . . . though pictures do speak volumns.

I'm looking forward to serving GFWC Texas these next two years. YOU, the member, make us all strong by being involved and participating. There is much to do. Knock off the dust, roll up your sleeves, clasp hands, and let's get to work!!

Linda Mesler

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P.S. Thank you, Billie Williams for serving as our previous "Queen Bee."

