



GFWC Arizona Clubwoman

President's Message

SAVE the DATE!



**2024 GFWC
Annual Convention
Chicago Hilton
Chicago, IL
June 29-July 1 2024**



Dear GFWC-AZ Sisters,

The 121th GFWC-AZ convention is coming soon: April 26-28. Please plan on attending. It will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Mesa as was the 2023 state convention.

This year's theme is "**A Glance at the Past, a Look to the Future**". Remember the 'flapper' style of the 20's, the frilly dresses of the 30's, the slacks and bright red lipstick of the 40's, the capris of the 50's, the Guru shirts and long beads of the 60's, BIG hair days of the 80's? What fads! What Fun!

Be planning of how 'vintage' you can look at the Friday night 'Remembering the Good Old Times', as one of our glances to the past with a 'How Vintage Can You Look?' competition.

Saturday will remind us of the future of GFWC and GFWC-AZ when we have our new Juniorette club introduced. Another glance at the past will have the past state presidents share something special with you. Of course, there will be workshops, and awards! Saturday evening will shine when the 2024-2026 GFWC-AZ Officers are installed and all are invited to a reception before dinner.

On Sunday, our GFWC-AZ Memorial Service Chairman will hold another beautiful memorial service for our GFWC sisters who have passed away since we last met.

There will be a very special guest on Saturday evening too. Check the GFWC-AZ CALL when it comes out on March 12th. **YOU HAVE TO BE THERE!**

See the CALL for more details about the entire weekend. Your club president will be sent a copy by March 12th. If you don't receive it...ask for a copy.

Hope to see you there!

Grace Kobjek, GFWC-AZ President



Grace Kobjek
GFWC-AZ President

Meeting Myths

Penny Peterson, GFWC-AZ Parliamentarian

Myth #1 - The chair only votes in case of a tie.

*The chair of a small board (12 or less) can always vote.
The chair of larger assemblies can vote on any ballot vote.*

Myth #2 - The chair should ask for “unfinished business.

The chair should NOT ask but only address items listed already listed under the heading.

Myth #3 - You can “suspend the rules” for a quorum or meeting requirements.

"Rules protecting absentees or a basic right of the individual member cannot be suspended, even by unanimous consent or an actual unanimous vote.

Myth #4 - A motion adopted by the required vote but which lacked a second is null and void.

"After debate has begun or, if there is no debate, after any member has voted, the lack of a second has become immaterial and it is too late to make a point of order that the motion has not been seconded."

Myth #5 - If an amendment is "friendly," you need only to have the maker of the original motion agree to it.

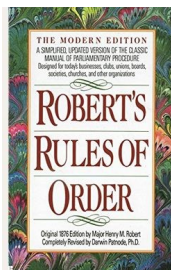
"Once a motion has been stated by the chair, it is no longer the property of the mover, but of the assembly. Any amendment, 'friendly' or otherwise, must be adopted by the full body, either by a vote or by unanimous consent."

Myth #6 - Ex officio members of boards and committees cannot vote.

"Ex officio members of boards and committees have all the privileges of membership, including the right to make motions and to vote, as other members."

Myth #7 - The assembly should vote on approving the treasurer's report.

"No action of acceptance by the assembly is required--or proper--on a financial report of the treasurer unless it is of sufficient importance, as an annual report, to be referred to auditors."



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Just like the ‘Rosies’ did when many of our men went to fight in the Pacific and European theaters of war, they had that, “WE CAN DO IT! ATTITUDE. They took over the tasks and the men left and didn’t complain too much about the hours, the work, or the sometimes-derogatory comments from the men who were left behind in the essential civilian jobs.

They were willing to do the work. Because these tasks were new and different from the daily tasks of a woman in the 40’s; they had a learning curve, BIG TIME! But they didn’t complain.

The Collins Dictionary tells us that someone has a CAN-DO attitude, you approve of them because they are confident and willing to deal with problems or new tasks, rather than complaining or giving up.

Look at the people around you; your friends, club members, leaders. Do they inspire confidence because they are confident? Are they willing to listen to the ideas of others? Do they keep a positive attitude in most situations and offer ways to proceed? Do they not buy into the word, ‘CAN’T’? Most of us need to work on these attributes, but never give up trying.

The theme of this administration is, *The Value of One, the Power of Many, Makes a WE CAN DO IT! Attitude.* The goal is to find the value of each person and create ‘Power’ from within to sustain long-term goals and learn from failures as well as successes.

Reflect on accomplishments and surround yourself with supportive people who will believe and encourage you. Once you have the, ‘WE CAN DO IT! Attitude, you can keep it going by embracing positivity and leave off defeatism.

WE CAN DO IT! YOU CAN DO IT! Just like the Rosies!
Grace Kobojeck, GFWC-AZ President

HAVE A WE CAN DO IT, ATTITUDE IN YOUR CLUB!

By Grace Kobojeck

GFWC- ARIZONA EIGHT WE CAN DO IT! ACTIONS AND ‘The WE CAN DO’S’



The state project during this administration has many projects that fit right in with our GFWC Community Service Programs (CSPs).

The WE CAN DO’S are easy sign up actions: Sign up for the GFWC Member Portal, the Legislative Action Center, the Women’s History Resource Center, the Clubwoman magazine and others.

Look for information coming soon on reporting all of your club “ WE CAN DO IT! CLUB projects and Easy Do’s from the past 2 years.

Deadline for reporting is April 1st, but keep on working on your projects and Easy Do’s until then.

Succession Planning

By Suzanne Blomme, 2022-2024 GFWC-AZ Leadership Chair

As we head into the final months of the 2022-24 Administration, it is time to turn our attention towards implementing a successful Succession Plan for your area of responsibility. These Plans involve the process of compiling and sharing information essential to your current position. An effective Plan provides stability and continuity. GFWC has survived as an organization for the past 134 years, in part, due to the thoughtful Succession Plans of our leaders. In short, a Succession Plan is critical to passing the torch and ensuring our future.

Succession Planning is NOT simply handing off a notebook or dropping off a big box of old papers to the next person with a wink and a “good luck” wish. Rather, it offers the incoming individual a road map. It provides the what, where, when and how for the role they will be assuming. No doubt you have faced some surprises and challenges in the past two years. You likely have a mental list of *“Things I Wish I Would Have Known”*. A Succession Plan can help your successor avoid unnecessary pitfalls and smooth the way for ongoing success. While the next person will put their own “stamp” on the role, this is your opportunity to make sure they start the next term with as much information as possible to competently transition into the job.

Again, rather than just handing this information off to the new person, arrange a time to sit down with them and review it, step by step. At the club level this may be done individually with an in-person chat or in a group setting, such as a Transition Leadership Workshop for all incoming officers/chairman. On the District or State level where distance is a factor, this may be done via a phone call, on Zoom, or perhaps arranging to get together at a District or State meeting..

Finally, prepare yourself to exit your role gracefully. Recognize that you have had your time in this position. Certainly you will want to make yourself available to support your successor and answer any on-going questions. However, now is the time to step aside from this particular job. You have done your best. Be proud of what you have achieved. Focus on what is ahead, as you look for new roles and opportunities on your Federation journey.



Suzanne Blomme

How To Create A Succession Plan:

- Provide a job description which outlines the responsibilities of the role
- Prepare a monthly calendar timeline of duties over the 2-year administration period
- Include a copy of bylaws and/or standing rules emphasizing areas that apply to this job
- If there is a Strategic Plan applicable to this role, provide that as well
- Furnish contact information for key people including email addresses & phone numbers
- Assist in setting up GFWC & GFWC/AZ website access if necessary
- Supply copies of past agendas, minutes, financial records, newsletters, etc. as appropriate
- Provide copies of any pertinent forms as well as the reports you submitted during your administration

“A good leader is always looking over her shoulder, preparing the next person to lead as well”

IRS Update – Streamlined Application 1023-EZ for Recognition as 501(c)3

The IRS on January 31, 2020 instituted a new procedure for applying for 501(c)3 status. The form, the 1023-EZ, must be completed electronically online at Pay.gov. located in the IRS Website. As of January 3, 2022, Form 1024 applications for recognition of exemption must also be submitted electronically at Pay.gov as well. The fees for applying for 501(c)3 status using the new method of filing are much less than in previous years. The user fee for applying for recognition as a 501(c)3 is \$275 if you use the 1023-EZ form.



Debbie Grieder
2022-2024 GFWC-AZ Treasurer

Unfortunately, organizations must meet certain criteria to use the streamlined application for 501(c)3. Here are some of the requirements the club must have:

Gross receipts cannot exceed \$50,000

Total assets must be less than \$250,000

Organization cannot be currently recognized as exempt under another section of the IRS code or have ever been recognized by the IRS as such in their history. I.e. The club cannot be currently a 501(4) or 501(c)7. This requirement means most of the clubs in the state who currently have 501(c)4 or 501(c)7 status cannot apply for 501(c)3 status using the streamlined form.

There may be some clubs in GFWC Arizona who do not currently have an IRS letter for recognition of exemption under the IRS 501(c) codes. The state encourages you to look into filing for tax-exempt status with the IRS. If you do not know if your club has ever obtained a 501(c) determination letter with the IRS, you may call the IRS with your EIN and they should be able to tell you what your club is designated as. Clubs who currently do not have their own tax status can join the GFWC-AZ Group Exemption and will be granted 501(c)4 status with the IRS. There is no fee to join the state's group exemption. Contact Debbie Grieder for more information about the GFWC-AZ Group Exemption.



Dianne Maki-Sethi
22-24 GFWC-AZ Women's History and Resource Center
Chairman
1451 E Calle Mariposa, Tucson, AZ 85718

A new Club year will be starting soon and this is a good time to introduce new members to GFWC's History.

Every Wednesday, the GFWC Facebook Group hosts "WHRC Wednesday," posting articles about what you can find in the archives of the resource center. Have you or your Club signed up to become a Friend of the Women's History and Resource Center? It's open to both Clubs and individual club members.



Communications/Public Relations

Question & Answer

QUESTION:

Dear Shelley,

Our club is considering switching to all electronic communications including thank you, condolence and birthday cards. Call me old fashion, but I don't think this is a good idea. What are your thoughts?

Sincerely,

Old Fashion Member

ANSWER:

Dear Old Fashion Member,

My first thought is "Who doesn't love to get a birthday card in the mail"? My second thought is "Maybe I am old fashion, too!" Perhaps your this is a discussion item for your next general meeting. The size of your club and age of members may be factors to consider as you consider this change. Let's look at a few pros and cons of each:

Pros

Digital Cards are Great Last-Minute Gifts: eCards are convenient because they can be written and sent last minute as long as you know the receiver's email address.

Digital Cards are Usually Free: If you need to send out many cards throughout the year, it's much cheaper to go digital. There are plenty of eCards you can send for free.

Digital Cards are Customizable: With digital cards, you aren't limited to what you find at the store. Thanks to the Internet, your digital card selection is virtually endless.

Digital Cards Can Be Scheduled Ahead: If you are tech savvy, a year's worth of birthday cards can be scheduled in one sitting and the computer will send them according to the schedule.

Digital Cards Can Last Forever: Anyone who gets your card can save it on their hard drive or print it out. Either way, you'll always have an extra copy on their computer.



Shelley Robinson

2022-2024 Communications Chair

Cons

Digital Cards Can Insult Some People: Since digital cards are often sent last minute, your kind gesture may ring hollow. They may get upset that you forgot about them.

Digital Cards Can Come Off as Cheap: If you simply send over a generic digital card it may feel impersonal and cheap.

Digital Cards are Prone to Hardware Failure: While it's true that digital cards have an endless shelf life, a simple hardware failure or accidental deletion could spoil your plans.

Digital Cards May Get Lost in an In-Box: Sending over a card is a nice gesture, but here's a chance the receiver will miss your card if you don't war them beforehand.

Digital Cards aren't Always so Customizable: Some free (or even paid) digital cards can't be customized unless you're a designer, making the card look rushed or generic.

As always, decisions like this should be pre-discussed with your membership and approved by the board of directors before implementation.

Sincerely,
Shelley

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Rosalie A. Dialessi, Chair

The weather is getting warmer, and as our thoughts go to the upcoming spring and summer events, I have a few ideas of how your club members can get involved with their community.

School Supply Replenishment-During the months of February, March, and April school classroom supplies begin to become short. Clubs can help by replenishing the pens, pencils, paper, and sanitizing wipes.

Give the Gift of a Hug-Do you have an extra stuffed animal or two that you are willing to part with? Local Crisis centers always appreciate receiving clean, gently used stuffed animals for emergency situations.

Meet Critical Needs-consider hosting a blood drive.

Cook for Ronald McDonald House-did you know that your club could be the hostesses for the families at the Ronald McDonald House? Whether you create an entire meal or just make cookies these services are always appreciated. Create Hospital Hope Kits for families going through this difficult time when their child is hospitalized. Contact your local Ronald McDonald House for information on any of these volunteer opportunities.

Organize a Parade Cleanup Crew-Everyone loves a parade, but there is always cleanup after. St Patrick's Day is usually a well-attended parade event. Contact the local parade committee in your community to see if they could use help either organizing or cleaning up after.

Partner with the Parks and Recreation Dept-there is always a need for volunteers for park and recreation events, such as community festivals, seasonal events, senior dances, and school vacation events.

Read to Nursing Home Residents-Most of our clubs get involved with Read Across America in elementary schools but has your club volunteered to read to the elderly in nursing home residences? Many residents don't get many visitors and the visually impaired can no longer enjoy a book or magazine.

Volunteer at a local road race-Volunteer to register racers, hand out water on the course and cheer on the participants. These are just a few ideas in the Civic Engagement and Outreach category that would be fun, full-filling and a serve a need in your community. So let us get out there and show them who GFWC Arizona volunteers are all about.

I'm looking forward to receiving your reports and reading all about what you have accomplished during 2023.

GFWC Women's History and Resource Center

PRESERVE the PAST, PROMOTE the PRESENT, and INSPIRE the FUTURE

Dianne Maki-Sethi, Chair

It is well worth the investment

Are you excited about the new quarters that are being issued? The recently announced 2024 coins recognize the achievements of Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, the Honorable Patsy Takemoto Mink, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Celia Cruz, and Zitkala-Ša.

Many of these names may be totally new to you; which is a good excuse to do some Wikipedia deep dives. While you are thinking about the quarters and Women's History, what better way to acquaint yourself with them than collect them for a fundraiser? Collect your women's quarters and save them up to buy and donate books to a classroom or a library. Going through Children's Books on Amazon there is a series "Who Was..." with a book "Who Was Celia Cruz?", one of the 2024 quarter honorees.

Wow! There is just so much out there to explore! For more, quick and easy ideas, join us next edition.

What is "Women's History and Resource Center" or WHRC?

Founded in 1984, the Women's History and Resource Center collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the GFWC and women volunteers. The WHRC documents the social and political contributions of GFWC clubwomen from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections, and publications. We also maintain a reference library collection focused on women's history, the woman's club movement, and the history of volunteerism.

Legislation/Public Policy

2022-2024 Michele Brown, Chairman



A New Year is upon us....and the legislative priorities for GFWC 2024 are out! There are many; I will summarize some of the priorities for Special Programs and Committees.

Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

VAWA Appropriations: GFWC urges Congress to provide significant increases in federal funding for FY 2024 and FY 2025 to meet the needs of survivors and strengthen education and prevention.

Rape Kit Backlog: The Debbie Smith Act must be reauthorized to provide funding to law enforcement to analyze untested rape kits. DNA analysis is one of the most important methods to investigate crimes and improve the capacity of state and local prosecutors to bring these cases to court.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Reauthorization: GFWC supports increased funding for domestic violence shelters and services for survivors, increased access to programs and services for tribes, communities of color, and underserved communities, investment in 24-hour hotlines, prevention programs for local communities, and enhanced victim services through training and technical assistance.

Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children

Online Safety: GFWC strongly supports efforts to prevent online sexual exploitation of children. The Kids Online Safety Act sets out requirements for covered platforms to protect minors from online abuse. The Project Safe Childhood Act modernizes the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Program to enhance law enforcement's response to online child sexual exploitation. The REPORT Act will ensure tech companies are held

Arts and Culture: GFWC supports increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to enhance state and local programs that help transform communities into beautiful and resilient places through strategies that incorporate arts and culture.

Civic Engagement and Outreach:

Food Insecurity: GFWC urges Congress to reauthorize and increase funding for programs addressing hunger and food insecurity including Meals on Wheels, the Emergency Food Assistance program (TEFAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the National School Lunch Program.

ERA: GFWC urges Congress to enact legislation to remove the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. In January 2020, the necessary three-quarters, or 38 states, voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, yet the United States Archivist has not certified the ratification. Except regarding the right to vote, the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee women the same legal status and protections guaranteed to men. The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (H.R. 542, S. 141) expands access to home and community-based services for aging and homebound veterans and provides support and benefits to caregivers of disabled veterans.

continued on page 18

Health and Wellness

By Joan Stempski,

Did You Know?

The United States Coast Guard is the only branch of the military that does NOT have a National Museum. But with the help and enthusiasm of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, we can make this museum a reality.

The United States Coast Guard leads the way in placing women in leadership roles. Currently, the highest-ranking officer of the Coast Guard, the Commandant, is Admiral Linda Fagan. Admiral Fagan was the first woman to be the highest-ranking officer of any branch of the United States military.

The United States Coast Guard Academy has the highest percentage of women enrolled, with 43% of the Coast Guard cadets being women. That is nearly 20% higher than the other three service academies.

Women have been serving, both directly and indirectly, in the Coast Guard since the Revolutionary War. Women indirectly served as assistant lighthouse keepers when their husbands would join to fight. In 1830, women received official assignments as lighthouse keepers.

Women served directly starting in WWI as uniformed clerical workers at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

During WWII, the Coast Guard recruited women into their women's reserve, known as SPARS (Semper Paratus-Always Ready). Twelve thousand women, including minorities, volunteered and were trained at nationwide facilities.

In the 1970s, the Coast Guard emerged as a policy leader for women in the military. The Coast Guard became the first branch of the military to open its Officer Candidate School to women in 1973. That same year, the Coast Guard began integrating women into its enlisted ranks.



New GFWC Emblem

Grace Kobjek



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

The long-awaited GFWC rebranded emblem has been introduced by Deb Strahanoski, our GFWC International President.

The updated GFWC emblem is shown above and below. As you will see, the emblem has not changed very much, but has been updated to assist with the rebranding of our organization. Note the est. 1890. Not many organizations today can boast such a date, since they are no longer active. We are!

I ask that you begin using the updated emblems immediately and also seek out the information GFWC has provided us to help with this rebranding effort. Thank you for making this a priority for your club, club members, and all correspondence.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful organization during the good times and difficult ones. Contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Grace Kobjek, GFWC Arizona President





GFWC-AZ Candidates for 2024—2026 Administration Positions

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE - In the even year it shall be the policy of the GFWC-AZ that clubs and Districts endorsing a candidate for State Office shall send a notice to be published in the Spring issue of the GFWC AZ State Publication consisting of not more than two paragraphs or 100 words. (Bylaws, ARTICLE VII, Section 4.B).

Sue Shipley, State President

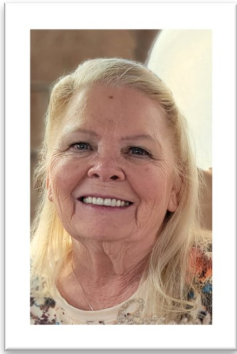
Cheryl Kappes, 1st Vice President

2nd VP Membership (Open)

Sandy Haupt, Recording Secretary

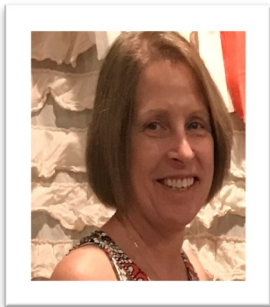
Treasurer, Debbie Grieder

Thank you to the following candidates for submitting biographical information for review by the membership:



GFWC-AZ 1st Vice President , Director of Programs - Cheryl Kappes

Joining the Glendale Woman's Club in 2013, . Cheryl was elected Treasurer in 2014, Rental Trustee in 2015, and Club President in 2020. Cheryl uses her 32 years of corporate program management experience, enthusiasm, and creativity to elevate club programs. She led efforts to overhaul our clubhouse rentals into a revenue generating business. She was appointed 2022-2024 GFWC Arizona State Convention Chairman, and recently accepted the role as interim 2022-2024 GFWC Arizona 2nd Vice President. She also serves as 2022-2024 Central District Parliamentarian. She has shared her time and talents supporting a variety of programs at our state and district conventions, and personally sold over \$1000 in convention sponsor ads to cut convention costs in 2023.



GFWC-AZ Recording Secretary - Sandy Haupt

Sandy been a member of GFWC Tempe Woman's Club since 2015. She is currently the President of the Club. Previously, she has been Vice-President (2017-2022) of the Club. She has served as the GFWC-AZ Fundraising Co-Chair 2020-2022. She is also the Recording Secretary for GFWC-AZ Central District 2022-2024. Sandy is LEADS graduate (2021) and attended the International Convention in Atlanta that year.



GFWC-AZ Treasurer - Debbie Grieder

Debbie has been a member of the GFWC Paradise Valley Junior Woman's Club since 1984 and has served in every office, including twice being club president. She served as the GFWC AZ Director of Junior Clubs (1998-2000), Central District President (2006-2008), and GFWC AZ State President (2008-2010). At the GFWC national level, Debbie served as GFWC Resource Conservation Chairman (2000-2002), GFWC Convention Chairman (2012-2014), WHRC Committee Member (2016-2018), and GFWC Resolutions Committee (2022-2024). She is currently completing her third term as GFWC Arizona State Treasurer and is also the current GFWC-AZ Corresponding Secretary. She is seeking a fourth term as State Treasurer.

GFWC La Noches Club Collaborates with Wreaths Across America

On a crisp December morning members of the GFWC Las Noches Club gathered at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler, Arizona to honor those who have served our country by taking part in the Wreaths Across America event. This nation-wide program designed to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

This year the event was held on December 14th. Las Noches members joined with other community volunteers, laying Christmas wreaths on the graves of hundreds of Arizonians who gave themselves to military service. Nation-wide a total of three million wreaths were laid in over four-thousand locations. In the process of laying the wreaths, individuals are encouraged to speak the name of the honored individual as a symbol of respect and remembrance.

For Las Noches, our commitment is more than just a single day. The club begins soliciting funds to purchase wreaths long before the event is held. We are fortunate to have a Vietnam vet as a community partner who generously contributes each year. Wreaths Across America is dedicated to ensuring that no veteran goes unrecognized. Las Noches members were proud to contribute to that effort. We thank GFWC/AZ Past President and Las Noches member Celene Post for her ongoing leadership in this great cause.



GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE HELPS RELIEVE FOOD INSECURITY

Washington, DC, January 24, 2024 — The inaugural General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) National Day of Service (NDS) proved impactful in raising food resources for communities across the country. The 2023 campaign spotlighted the food insecurity and hunger crisis. The results received from the "NDS Impact Report" submitted by approximately 700 of the 980 GFWC Regions, State Federations, Districts, and clubs indicate GFWC clubwomen collected 145,506 pounds of nonperishable food, recorded more than 20,000 volunteer hours, collected \$138,415 in monetary donations, and contributed to the preparation of 121,386 meals.

"The GFWC National Day of Service's purpose is to spotlight a community problem and mobilize our volunteers across the 50 states and the District of Columbia to aid relief efforts," said Debra Strahanoski, GFWC International President. "This year's campaign focused on food insecurity and hunger. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 34 million people in the United States suffer from food insecurity, 100 percent of U.S. counties are impacted, and 9 million children do not know when they'll eat next. I am proud of GFWC club members for their dedication to helping others in need. We exist to make a positive contribution to our local communities."

The GFWC NDS is an annual public awareness campaign for members to create Community Service Projects in their communities to help others. Please mark your calendar for the **2024 GFWC NDS on Saturday, September 28**. This year's campaign will once again spotlight food insecurity and hunger. For more information, contact Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, at MGisler@GFWC.org.

GFWC-AZ Club Highlights—

GFWC Southern District Chili Peppers Tucson's Woman's Club



The following members helped assemble the birthday bags for the Ronald McDonald House: Dianne Maki-Sethi, Marilyn Smith, Sharon Brunk, Alexandra Sethi, Faye James, Gisela Halley, Dianna Swenson, and Sheila Schommer.

The Birthday Bags were filled with cake mix, icing, Birthday candles, small plates, napkins, a center piece, an activity book,



Dianne Maki-Sethi sitting with Ronald at the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson, AZ.

GFWC-AZ Club Highlights—Tempe Woman's Club

TEMPE WOMAN'S CLUB CELEBRATES GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK

For the second year in a row, Tempe Woman's Club celebrated Advocates for Children Week, .

Advocates for Children Committee of TWC supported children removed from homes due to unsafe conditions by working with the Emergency Shelter of Child Crisis Arizona. Members sewed 47 PJ Bags made of colorful prints and patterns stuffed with pajamas (ages 4-12) and age appropriate toys, craft items, books, etc. As a new child is brought to the Shelter after removal from their home, each one receives a bag of their own, something for them to take with them after leaving the shelter.

The Club also was given a Proclamation for Advocates for Children Week at the Tempe City Council . TWC is very fortunate to have the Mayor and 4 of the Councilmembers as members of our Club.

Pictured: above: Mayor Corey Woods, Sandy Haupt, TWC President, Michele Brown, Advocates for Children Chair

2nd photo: the entire Council wanted to get in on the photo op to celebrate the Proclamation!

Below are 3 photos of the PJ Bags project in support of Advocates for Children Week. One photo is example of a boy's bag; the other a girl's bag. And, of course, the crew who sewed and assembled the 47 bags





GFWC Peoria- West Valley Woman's Club

For a community project, on our January 2024 workday, the members of the GFWC Peoria-West Valley Woman's Club made 90 Valentine favors to give to a local assisted living community to use on Valentine's Day to help decorate the residents' place settings and to bring a little extra joy to the community.



More Than a Bed (MTAB)

More Than a Bed (MTAB) is a community based foster care service that provides resources and support to foster, kinship and adoptive families in southern Arizona. In addition, MTAB hopes to inspire the community to get involved in the life of a foster child, support the families providing care, and encourage new families to become licensed and existing families to remain licensed. Children who are removed from their existing home have typically experienced extreme circumstances, such as abuse and/or neglect. MTAB works to make sure every child has the essentials they need and to lessen the financial burden for the caregivers. In addition to providing resources and support to the families they serve, MTAB strives to connect foster, kinship, and adoptive families throughout the community and strengthen the families' resolve to provide a safe and loving home for the children.

For several years, MLWC has worked closely with MTAB to provide new and gently used donated items and cash donations. Each year MTAB holds a Christmas Party for the children that they serve. MLWC members donate new unwrapped toys to be used as gifts for the children served by MTAB. One of the club members, Mary Hunter, is a gifted quiltmaker who makes baby quilts to donate to MTAB. For the 2023 MTAB Christmas Party Mary made 10 baby quilts to donate, using her own money to purchase batting, backing fabric, thread, needles, and labels. To create the quilts Mary worked for 15 hours per quilt for the cutting, sewing, quilting, and binding for a total of 150 hours. Each quilt is unique in its design and is a keepsake quality gift for babies. Each year we look forward to seeing the gems that Mary has lovingly produced.



GFWC-AZ Club Highlights—Buckeye Woman's Club

GFWC Buckeye Woman's Club celebrated their 100th Anniversary with an open house. Buckeye Mayor Eric Orsborn addressed the group that included GFWC-AZ Central District representative Mary Smalling, members from other clubs and Buckeye residents. Refreshments were served and many people enjoyed looking through our photo albums and scrapbooks.



GFWC Buckeye Woman's Club is partnering with the Buckeye Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Youth for Troops to crochet sleeping mats out of grocery bags. The bags are distributed to homeless veterans. Kareen Kittower, club treasurer, has crocheted 9 mats. Each mat measures three feet by 6 feet and takes about 30 hours to crochet.



January 28, 2024, the city of Buckeye held their annual Buckeye Days Parade. Riding in the parade were President Marcia King, Treasurer Kareen Kittower, Recording Secretary Patti Reese, Parliamentarian Jennifer Peck and Chairman of Special Projects Katie Wickware. Tom Jones Ford of Buckeye loaned us an SUV for the parade. Buckeye Days originated by the Buckeye Woman's Club in 1966 as Pioneer Days to raise funds for the Buckeye Museum.

GFWC-AZ Club Highlights

San Tan Valley Women's Club

When Shirlene Carillo of the San Tan Valley Woman's Club heard the Special Education Department of the Copper Basin K-8 School was in need of supplies, she proposed a challenge to the San Tan Valley Woman's Club. The members rose to the occasion!

The San Tan Woman's Club collected crayons, construction paper, glue, markers, cotton balls, colored pencils, painting supplies, brushes, paint, canvas, coloring books, dry erasers and markers.

Shirlene delivered the supplies to Copper Basin K-8 School on February 16, 2024. The teachers expressed how much the donations will help the children develop their creativity in the classroom. The Special Education Department has a total of 9 teachers for about 100 students.



Shirlene Carillo (middle) delivers school supplies on behalf of the GFWC San Tan Valley Woman's Club.



Florence Woman's Club cleans up!

GFWC-FWC 1st Vice President, Karen Parks, found enthusiasm for a highway clean-up project when she read about it in the GFWC-AZ awards program last year. After completing all the paperwork, Karen scheduled the first clean-up with over 10 members joining the effort!



GFWC-FWC turned some heads with their fancy car in the Florence Light Parade!



Who's Who in GFWC AZ 2022—2024

GFWC-AZ Executive Committee

President , Grace Kobjek
 1st VP (Programs), Sue Shipley
 2nd VP (Membership), Cheryl Kappes
 Recording Secretary, Sandy Haupt
 Treasurer, Debbie Grieder
 Corresponding Secretary, Debbie Grieder
 Parliamentarian, Penny Peterson
 Central District President, Grace Kobjek
 Southern District President, Lee Swearengin
 Southwestern District President, Jeni O'Callaghan

GFWC-AZ Community Service Program Chairs

Arts & Culture, Kathy Chesser
 Photo Contest, Leslie Brown
 Environment, Bernadine McCollum
 Education/Libraries, Randy Rummage
 Writing Contest, Leslie Brown
 ESO, Sharon Brunk
 HOBY, Terri Huber
 Civic Engagement, Rosalie Dialessi
 Canine Companions, Judy Isaacson
 Health & Wellness, Joan Stempski
 Affiliates Chairman, Celene Post
 We Can Do It! Actions Chair, Grace Kobjek

“ It's a mistake to think we listen only with our ears. It's much more important to listen with the mind, the eyes, the body, and the heart. Unless you truly want to understand the other person, you'll never be able to listen.”
 Mark Herndon

GFWC-AZ Advancement Program Chairs

Communications/Public Relations/Website
 & Newsletter, Shelley Robinson
 Facebook (Group), Jeni O'Callaghan
 Facebook (Page) Co-chairs, Jeni
 O-Callaghan & Shelley Robinson
 Fundraising Co-chairs, Heather Brott &
 Sue Webb-Taylor
 Opportunity Drawing, Lois Taylor
 Leadership, Suzzanne Blomme
 LEADS, Mary Smalling
 Legislation/Public Policy, Michele Brown
 Membership, Nancy Holihan
 Women's History and Resource Center,
 Dianne Maki-Sethi

“ None of us is as smart as all of us.” Peter B. Grazier

GFWC-AZ Special Program Chairs

Domestic Violence Awareness and
 Prevention, Linda Kenrich
 Junior Special Program: Advocates for
 Children, Vickie Luthro

Need Contact information?

Go to the GFWC-State website!

Please create an account to have access
 to GFWC-AZ private pages on the
 GFWC-AZ website. Private pages list
 contact information for all officers
 and Program Chairs.

Continued from page 8—"Legislation/Public Policy"

Education and Libraries: STEAM: GFWC supports federal funding for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) programs, broadband infrastructure to enable learning for every family, and increased funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to strengthen local community resources.

Environment:

Recreation: The Outdoors for All Act (H.R. 1065, S. 448) directs the Interior Department to establish an outdoor recreation legacy partnership grant program to support states and local communities or organizations develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities. The America's Outdoor Recreation Act (S. 873) addresses issues regarding public recreation on federal lands and waters.

Health and Wellness:

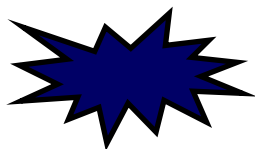
Global Vaccinations: GFWC urges Congress to fully fund global childhood immunizations.

Paid Family and Medical Leave: GFWC supports policies that support families and reduce health disparities in the workplace such as parental leave, paid family and medical leave, and pregnancy accommodations.

Alzheimer's: The bipartisan National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) reauthorization bill (H.R. 619, S. 133) extends the work of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, emphasizes the importance of healthy aging and risk reduction, and addresses health disparities among underrepresented populations. The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (H.R. 620, S. 134) would continue to prioritize Alzheimer's and dementia research funding at the National Institutes of Health. With robust and steady investment, scientists will be able to work faster to advance basic disease knowledge, explore ways to reduce risk, uncover new biomarkers for early diagnosis and drug targeting, and develop potential treatments.

For more information, contact: Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, dstrahanoski@gfwc.org, 202-347-3168, or Debra Bryant, GFWC Federal Government Relations Consultant, debra.bryant@unified-solutions.us, 202-263-9902.

Be in the know...sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center to receive alerts, send letters to Congress, search for legislation, etc. Arizona has 174 members currently registered with LAC – the most members of any State in the GFWC South Central Region. Let's keep it that way – and aim for 200! www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home.



ARIZONA HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO HOST THE 2026 GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CONVENTION.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN IN 2024, BUT WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THE GREAT NEWS. THERE WILL MANY JOBS FOR ARIZONA MEMBERS WHEN WE GET THE PLANNING GOING AT FULL SPEED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

GFWC-AZ Executive Committee

SAVE THE DATE

GFWC-AZ

121ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

FRIDAY - SUNDAY

APRIL 26-28, 2024

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES: Phoenix-Mesa/Chandler
1600 South Country Club Drive, Mesa, AZ

Booking Phone Number: 480-964-7000 or 888-280-5056

Booking Group Code: GFG

\$129 + 24% Occupancy Tax + 8.5% City tax

2 Queens or 1 King, Free Breakfast for up to 3 people

Room Link for Reservations:

[General Federation Womens Group 2024](#)

THE CALL TO BE MAILED BY MARCH 12TH TO CLUB PRESIDENTS

“A LOOK AT THE PAST- A GLANCE AT THE FUTURE”

You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!

GFWC-AZ is delighted to announce the federation of a new club in Central District! Please welcome the GFWC Cherry Blossom Juniorette Club to GFWC-AZ. Federated December 1, 2023 with 13 members, this new club was sponsored by the GFWC Glendale WC. Please welcome their new co-Club presidents Cassandra Camacho and Ximena Avila! We look forward to seeing their members at future district and state meetings!

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK REQUESTED

Thank you for reading the Winter 2024 edition of the GFWC-AZ Clubwoman. As the editor, I value your review and feedback of this edition. Would you please take a few minutes to email me your constructive feedback? I appreciate your efforts to help make the GFWC-AZ Newsletter meet the needs of all GFWC-AZ clubs.

Please email your feedback to: **ironranger8@msn.com**

“Feedback is the breakfast of champions” Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, *The One Minute Manager*

Submit your article for the Spring 2024 Issue

(Spring Edition of the GFWC-AZ Clubwoman)

The goal of the GFWC-AZ newsletter is to provide timely, accurate and representative information to all GFWC-AZ clubs in Arizona. As editor, I am seeking articles from every club in the state. The article may be a brief mention of an activity with a picture or a longer human interest story.

When you submit your article, please:

1. Email it to me: Shelley Robinson at ironranger8@msn.com.
2. Attach pictures to the same email as your article.

Date of email request for articles (sent to all club presidents/CPR chairs)	Deadline for article submission	Newsletter composition period	Newsletter distribution date
April 1, 2024	April 15 2024	April 15-30, 2024	May 1, 2024 Spring Issue (end of my term as Communications Chair)

3. Call, text or email me if you have questions or would like assistance in writing an article. It is my pleasure to serve as the 2022-2024 GFWC-AZ Communications/Public Relations Chair. I am available anytime by calling 218 966 0517 and look forward to helping!

