

Mississippi Clubwoman



Volume LXXII, Number 4

Spring 2024



**GFWC
MISSISSIPPI FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUB, INC.**

*126th
Annual State
Convention*

APRIL 25-27, 2024



**EAGLE RIDGE CONFERENCE CENTER
RAYMOND, MS**

The mission of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. is an organization of women whose goal is personal enrichment leading to volunteer service that benefits the community, state, nation and world.

Founded on May 25, 1898 and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Since 1904.

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- ◆ Please send **ALL ADDITIONS (with DUES)** of your club roster directly to State Treasurer Becky W. Watkins, P. O. Box 749, Quitman, MS 39355. She will, in turn, forward to Circulation Editor, Lisa A. Harris.
- ◆ Please send **ALL DELETIONS AND CHANGES** of your club roster directly to Circulation Editor, Lisa A. Harris.

GFWC Mission Statement *"The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service and to providing opportunities that strengthen the role of women."*

MFWC Mission Statement *"The Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. is an organization of women whose goal is personal enrichment leading to volunteer service that benefits the community, state, nation and world."*

Message from Your State President Theresa Buntyn

The 2022-2024 Administration is entering our fourth quarter and as I reflect over the last two years, I am so appreciative and amazed as our Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs have collectively "got back to our roots" promoted our public libraries, education, and literacy. The past 22 months have flown by, and I have been honored to visit your clubs, read your reports, and view so many pictures of how our clubs have made a difference challenging communities, organization and GFWC to address the needs and projects for our public libraries. I am pleased to see what you have accomplished, and projects you will continue to do to improve the lives of others. Consequently, the words and pictures express your works and achievements. There has been a Few "Ohs, Ohs" or two along the way, as quoted by our GFWC International President, but for the most part I can honestly say that I can look back and I know we have given our best. I could not have accomplished anything without the support of all my Federation Friends and to each of you I owe a huge Thank You. One group of those friends that bears mentioning are my fellow Executive Officers.

With her warm smile and generous attitude, President-elect Dr. Carolyn Tedford has been by my side through it all. She is always eager to help and encourage me. I appreciate the excellent job she has done these past two years and know our Federation will be in good hands as we lead to the future.

I could not have had a better vice president than Meri Newell to lead during this administration. Not only her attention to detail, but her passion for reporting and GFWC shined as she made sure all clubs understood how to report.

Recording Secretary Susan Shurden kept us on track with meetings, signing contracts, and willingness to share minutes and our reports from the Executive Committee. She gently reminded this President and Executive Committee of items that needed to be included in our reports. We thank her for her insight and making sure we are clear in our communications.

Lastly, I want to express a heartfelt thanks to Becky Watkins. She took on a new challenge of treasurer and was not only willing to listen and learn, but she exhibited accountability by informing our committee of our financial resources.

My sincere thanks to our Executive Board, Executive Committee, Federation Club Officers, Federation members for supporting my PSP. Thank you for your efforts, willingness and always volunteering to improve our communities and our state. I cannot thank you for the difference you have made in my life.

You reported for 2023:

- President's Special Project:
 - Projects 285
 - members participating 580
 - Volunteer Hours 18,407
 - Dollars Donated \$2,347
 - In-Kind Donated \$24,574
- In addition Education and Libraries CSP:
 - Projects 523
 - Volunteer Hours 26,115
 - Dollars Donated \$98,398
 - In-Kind Donated \$48,299



**Theresa Buntyn,
President 2022-2024**

To each of you, I owe a huge debt of gratitude that I will never be able to repay. Thank you for working with me these past 22 months and for embracing this President with open and loving arms. I want to commend each one of the clubs that took the time to fill out the Reporting Forms. Even if you only turned in statistics, it was a true effort of reporting the impact MFWC does to make a difference.

This will be my final article for the *Mississippi Clubwoman* Magazine as your State President. I would not be sincere without telling you I do have some regrets and would like to continue as your President and work on new endeavors to lead our organization. I am honored and appreciative of all your support this administration. I look forward to our "Living the Volunteer Spirit and continuing to participate in projects along with you in our future administrations. We have challenges before us MFWC Federated Ladies always "Make a Difference."

Our excitement will end as we shared our success at the GFWC-MFWC 2024 convention at Eagle Ridge in Raymond, MS. As promised, I want to end this administration to share our success in my PSP. We have plans of different twist for our convention in Raymond this year. Please plan to attend as we pay tribute to local authors, celebration of awards, vendors for some of the finest shopping in Mississippi. Lastly, we plan for a surprise to be given to clubs who participated and contributed to the President's Special Project.

In Federation Love,
Theresa Buntyn
GFWC-MFWC State President

Messages from GFWC-MFWC Elected Officers

GFWC-MFWC President-elect and State Membership Chairman

Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford

I am honored to serve as President elect and Membership Chairman for the Gems of Mississippi. The Gems of Mississippi sparkle and shine through their actions of giving and serving others every day. Recruiting and retaining members throughout the year is crucial to the success of clubs, GFWC Mississippi and GFWC.

I enjoyed reading each of the club's membership reports. The activities and projects the club's reported reflected the goals and intentions of the GFWC "Sparkle and Shine" retention, recruitment, mentoring and recognition campaign which encompasses strengthening relationships, sharing your passions, harmonious connections and shining bright.

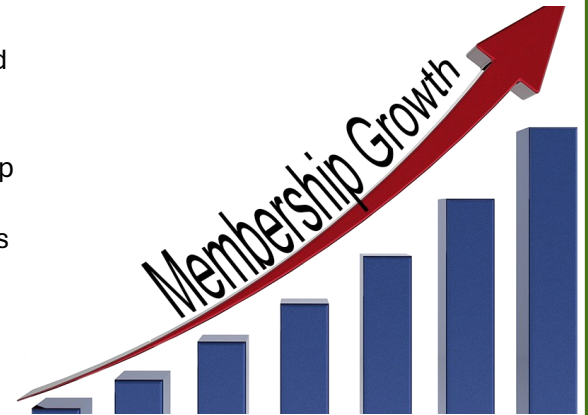
All clubs assigned mentors, designed brochures, made Communication Connections by encouraging the use of the Member Portal, GroupMe, Canva, and a variety of social media, as well as text messages to encourage attendance and involvement in activities and projects. Clubs provided flexibility and a wide ray of opportunities through membership categories based on the needs of the members of their clubs.

The **Southern District** has 9 General Clubs and 4 Juniorette clubs and a total of 328 members. This past club year,

- 7 General Clubs reported: 52 projects, 2,736 volunteer hours, \$16,706 dollars spent in Membership, and
- 2 Juniorette Clubs reported 53 projects, 391 volunteer Hours and \$1,845 dollars spent in Membership.

Southern District clubs promoted recruitment of members throughout the year through invitations to various membership events and retained members by hosting new member orientations and assigning mentors. Club Presidents and other guest speakers have shared all the amazing projects that each club does to make a difference in our communities, but I wanted to add a little more regarding club activities and let me just tell you we have adventures and lots of fun down South. The Civic Woman's Club has their very own fun committee, and they love to celebrate throughout the year, but that May celebration bash is something else. You never know what amazing characters you will run into when you visit the Purvis Woman's Club get together or that salad luncheon in Petal. If you enjoy wine and cheese just head on down to the Women's Club of Gulfport for their membership bash. And if you attend the Pearl River County fair or the Pearl River Community College Women's Health Symposium guess who you will find there the Poplarville Woman's Club. They will be recruiting members. That Homochitto Heritage Club they are always digging for gems. As you have heard earlier, with cows and ducks. Have you heard that saying "Who ya gona call" well it the Fine Arts Club of Waynesboro and Ellisville Fidela Club. They always answer. I want to again recognize 3 special group of gems that most definitely shine bright: Fidela Junioresettes, Dixie Daises, and Juniorette Diamonds!

Top five clubs in the Southern District for Advancement Plan - Membership are:



- 5th Place - Homochitto Heritage Club
- 4th Place - Cosmopolitan Club
- 3rd Place - Civic woman's Club of Picayune
- 2nd Place - Women's Club of Gulfport
- 1st Place - Poplarville Woman's Club

The **Central District** has 10 General Clubs and a total of 162 members. This past club year, 7 Central District Clubs reported:

- 28 projects, 3,022 volunteer hours, and \$12,412 dollars spent. in Membership

The Crystal Springs Floral Club and Florentine Club promoted recruitment of members throughout the year through invitations to various membership events. I had the opportunity to visit with and enjoy some delicious

snacks at the Star Woman's Club Membership Recruitment event. After leaving the event in Star I scooted on over to Florence and "Got the Scoop on Membership" from the Florentine Evening Club.

The Decatur Woman's Progressive Club sent Membership Matters Reminders to their members. The Quitman Woman's Club updated

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

their website to include videos of their volunteer services and projects as well as partnering with other organizations to foster “Unity in Diversity.”

Top five clubs in the Central District for Advancement Plan:

Membership are:

- 5th Place - GFWC-MFWC Crystal Springs Floral Club,
- 4th Place - GFWC-MFWC Decatur Women’s Progressive Club,
- 3rd Place - Quitman Woman’s Club,
- 2nd Place - GFWC MFWC Florentine Club,
- 1st Place - GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club

The **Northern District** has 14 General Clubs and 4 Juniette Clubs with a total of 357 members. This past club year, 8 Northern District Clubs reported:

- 44 projects, 218 volunteer hours and \$3,198 dollars spent in Membership.

Twenty Century Club of Bruce definitely “Sparkled and Shined” in 2023! They retained every pearl and added 2 emeralds, 2 diamonds, and 2 Rubys!!! Added a total of 6 new members in their bag of Gems. Madam President Theresa Buntyn and I enjoyed a wonderful Brunch with the Fine Arts Club of Bruce at their New Member Orientation. The

program included topics: “Effective Membership in GFWC, MFWC and the Club,” “Collaborations and Partnerships,” and “Communication and Public Relations.” Fine Arts Club of Bruce did a recruitment campaign each quarter and added 9 new members.

Members were Spotlighted on social media for their Birthday. If you are a member of GFWC Ackerman Civic League, you receive a surprise happy each month from your secret sister. In December at the Christmas meeting, you found out who had been gifting you the wonderful happies. Members of the luka Twentieth Century Club received birthday cards. All members were given club pins to wear at meetings and community events. The Magnolia Junior Woman’s Club is in its third year. FYI- in case you are not aware the Magnolia Junior Woman’s Club is a cyber club, there are six former Juniettes that are now located in six different communities. They continually share information about GFWC and their experience as Juniettes with friends and family. To engage members and give everyone a voice, each member is responsible for choosing their bi-monthly book selection and leading the discussion.

Batesville Woman's Club hosted a Membership Tea. Each member was challenged to submit ten names to the membership chairman. Madam President Theresa Buntyn and I had

the honor of attending Woman’s Club of Aberdeen 100th Celebration. What an amazing thing to be able to celebrate. The Woman’s Club of Tunica County have been working extremely hard to recruit new members and reengage with GFWC and MFWC. They currently have 8 members. I am so very proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to working with them in the upcoming two years.

Top four clubs in the Northern District for Advancement Plan: Membership are:

- 4th Place - GFWC Ackerman Civic League,
- 3rd Place - GFWC-MFWC Twentieth Century Club of Bruce,
- 2nd Place - GFWC Magnolia Junior Woman’s Club,
- 1st Place - GFWC MFWC Fine Arts Club of Bruce

In conclusion, during this administration, we added 117 new members to our rolls. The final totals as of February 12, 2024:

- 11 Juniettes Club
- 33 General Clubs
- 202 Juniette Members
- 700 General Members

Be sure to attend the 126th Annual State Convention in Raymond, MS to find out which clubs were voted as the top five in GFWC Advancement Plan - Membership.



*“Once You Learn to Read,
You Will Be Forever Free”
~Frederick Douglass*

GFWC-MFWC Vice President -Meri F. Newell

Greetings, and many thanks for so many good, informative reports!

One of the comments I heard from several Presidents is that they would like some in-person training for writing reports. We are going to work on this for Summer Institute; what would be extremely helpful would be for you to formulate some questions or topics that you would like to see covered in this training. We will do our best to cover everything that you ask about, as well as going through the process step-by-step. If you can send these questions to me, I will help the next Vice President put together this

session.

It was exciting to see so many new and different projects from all of you this year. You really did a great job of bringing good things to your communities, and other communities in need. Keep thinking “outside the box” and acting on these great ideas. The difference that you make is so much greater than you will ever know.

I also want to give a shout-out to the Juniorette Clubs that reported. Your work was phenomenal, and so inspiring to this Vice President. Looking at your work made me so

proud that our State Federation is in good future hands.

Remember to report your Volunteer Hours, Donations, and In-Kind Donations each month. We all do so much in our communities through our club work, etc. However, if you don't report, there are some wonderful things that we will never know about.

I will look forward to seeing you at State Convention where we can celebrate all of your hard work. As always, please feel free to contact me at Newellmf57@gmail.com or text me at 601-307-6004.

Messages from GFWC-MFWC District Presidents

Northern District President - Lisa McGee

Greetings MFWC members!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. I definitely did!! And now Spring is fast approaching. Hoping for warmer weather soon. Enjoyed the earlier warm weather and the buttercups blooming. I'm looking forward to sneaking out on patio again to read, listen to the birds sing and enjoy the sunshine! Fun time of year!

You ladies rock! You are there for your local school systems. Supporting new teachers in supplying their classrooms with much needed items, recognizing

educators and administrators to let them know they are appreciated, helping with an assortment of programs to make learning fun for the students and relieve some of the burdens of the teachers, and the donations made to other areas of the education system that are not as obvious but fill needs to make a better school system.

Another platform to use to recognize our state library system is social media. Please make it a point to support the Mississippi Library Commission by liking on Facebook, following on Instagram, and following on X.

Something I'm personally excited about is the ability to check out books via smartphone applications. The following are available through the MLC system: Overdrive, Libby and the one I use is Hoopla. It makes it very easy to download a book and enjoy reading when having some unexpected downtime.

Again, thank you for all you do in your communities. GFWC-MFWC is truly living the volunteer spirit in the wonderful things done for the betterment of our communities.

Central District President - Theresa T. Berryhill

It has certainly been my pleasure to serve as Central District President for the past two years.

I want to say thank you for all of your hard work that was evidenced in your excellent reports. I would like to encourage those who did not report to do so next year.

I thank Raleigh Woman's Club,

Gavel Club and Leading Ladies for being the host clubs for 2024 District Convention. All of your hard work was a job well done; the luncheon was great, and the table decorations were beautiful. Best wishes to the new officers of Central District for 2024-2026.

I want to encourage all to attend the state convention at Eagle Ridge

Conference Center on April 25-27. We need to support our outgoing and incoming state presidents. State convention is a good time to meet and get to know club members from across the state. You get to see what other clubs are doing as projects and can go back to your club with even greater ideas.

Southern District President-elect Shirley Wiltshire

Shirley Wiltshire, MFWC Southern District President-Elect, welcomed 53 Southern District members and State Officers to the 109th Annual Convention hosted by Fidelia Club of Ellisville.

The Fidelia Club decorated with beautiful spring flowers throughout the meeting area. Eight general clubs and three juniorettes attended the convention.

Club presidents shared highlights of 2023 club programs and projects. Always great to hear what clubs are doing throughout the Southern District. MFWC President Theresa Buntyn shared what each club projects and programs promoting the President Special Project. Clubs helped their local libraries by donating books, helping with Summer Reading Programs, Book Sales, Friends of the Library events to numerous other support for our libraries. Congratulations to the Cosmopolitan Club for the best 2023 President Special Project.

MFWC President-Elect Carolyn Tedford highlighted each club's Sparkle and Shine Membership Emphasis. Each club has unique ways of inviting new members and retaining membership. One that each club uses to promote programs and projects is Social Media platforms. The public notices the impact each Federated Woman's Club makes in their community. Congratulations to the Poplarville Woman's Club for Sparkle and Shine membership promotion.

Meri Newell, MFWC Vice-President, presented Community Service Program awards. Congratulations to the following clubs that placed first in each area and all clubs for their impact each are making in their communities Arts and Culture: Civic Woman's Club of Picayune; Civic Engagement and Outreach: Civic Woman's Club of Picayune; Education and Libraries: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal; Environment: Woman's Club of Gulfport; and Health and Wellness: Poplarville Woman's Club. In MFWC Special Projects the following clubs were in first place. MS Public Broadcasting: Civic Woman's Club of Picayune; MS State Institutions: Civic Woman's Club of Picayune. In GFWC Special Projects Southern District Winners in GFWC Signature Project-Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal; and GFWC Junior's Signature Program-Advocates for Children: Women's Club of Gulfport.

Pollyanna Robelen, MFWC Southern District Ways and Means Chair, announced GFWC Advancement Plans. Communications and Public Relations: Women's Club of Gulfport; Leadership: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal; Legislations/Public Policy: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal; Fundraising and Development: Women's Club of Gulfport; Epsilon Sigma Omicron: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal; Women's History and Resource Center: Civic Woman's Club of Picayune.

MFWC President Theresa Buntyn

announced the 2023 Club Woman of the Year: Janis Sita, from Civic Woman's Club of Picayune. Shirley Wiltshire, Southern District President-Elect announced Club of the Year: Cosmopolitan Club of Petal received this award.

Carolyn Tedford, MFWC President-Elect, installed the 2024-26 Southern District Officers. President - Shirley Wiltshire; President-Elect- Lorri Stockstill; Vice-President- Shannon Collins; Secretary-Dawn Vosbein; Treasurer-Jana Owen. Each officer was given a "heart" to remind them they are the Heart of MFWC.

Fidelia Juniorettes and Fidelia Club served a delicious lunch. During lunch members got to check out Arts and Craft Photography and Youth Art exhibits. Janis Sita and Lillian Lofton announced winners in Arts and Craft and Photography and Youth Art. Eleanor Bayless announced the winners in Yearbook and Scrapbook categories.

Sandra Pelas, President of Woman's Club of Gulfport, extended the invitation to the 2025 Southern District Convention. Theresa Buntyn extended invitation to the State Convention in April at Eagle Ridge in Raymond. Sherri Reid gave the invitation to the GFWC Convention in Chicago in June. Carolyn Tedford asked members to get ready in October to attend GFWC Southern Region in Greenville, South Carolina. Shirley Wiltshire shared that Southern District would be hosting the 2025 State Convention.



Messages from Appointed Officers

Juniorette Directory - Michelle Sutton

2023 proved to be another busy and productive year for our MFWC Juniorette clubs across the state. The reports are in, and all of your hard work has been recorded for the history books. Thank you for all you are doing to build confidence and leadership skills in our youth and help our communities be a better place for our youth to thrive.

In 2023, MFWC saw one new club formed, planted seeds for the possibility of another new club, and while at the international convention, spoke with a GFWC Pennsylvania member on how to establish a Juniorette club in her area. I hope you'll encourage your

Juniorettes to attend district and/or state conventions where they can meet fellow club members on various levels, learn more about our international organization, and let their light shine on the ways they are bettering GFWC through their endeavors.

We are embarking on district meeting time, as well as state, regional, and national convention time. Last year, I had a wonderful time attending several conventions and speaking out about our wonderful Juniorette clubs. It was an honor to introduce GFWC-MFWC Juniorette Diamond's Emma Diamond at the Southern Region

Conference in Biloxi. Attendees were impressed with her poise and confidence as she addressed the audience.

Thank you to all who have selected a Juniorette of the Year for your club and to those who have submitted applications for the MFWC JOY award. I look forward to hearing all about the JOY candidates and the Sarah Peugh Butterfly Scholarship applicants.

Keep posting on social media and follow our MFWC Juniorettes Facebook and Instagram pages. I look forward to seeing all you accomplish in 2024.



Civic Woman's Club of Picayune
Leslie McCutcheon Lincoln · Apr 18 ·

Our club members donated over 70 children's books to the public library today. They will be distributed to children at the Kids' Day we are helping to sponsor on April 22, and at the library's Summer Reading Program.
[#bloomwhereyouareplanted](#) [#MFWC](#)





Cosmopolitan Club "Book" Christmas Tree



MFWC LEADS - Meri F. Newell

We are so proud to announce our LEADS Class of 2024. All of these women are outstanding leaders in their home clubs and have expressed interest in becoming the 2024 MFWC LEADS delegate at the GFWC International Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

LEADS candidate Shannon Collins is from Waynesboro and is a member of The Fine Arts Club. She has participated in many of the club's major projects and is anxious to learn more from the LEADS program.

LEADS Candidate Leza Cooley is from Petal, MS and is a member of Cosmopolitan Club. She is the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee Chairman and has been involved in most major projects that Cosmopolitan Club has participated in since she joined in 2021.

LEADS Candidate Caroline Fairley is from Meadville and is a member of Homochitto Heritage Club. She is the current Advisor for Dixie Daisy

Juniorettes and assisted in completing their 2023 reports. She also serves on the Scrapbook committee.

LEADS Candidate Lorri Stockstill is from Picayune, MS, and is currently serving as the GFWC-MFVC Civic Woman's Club of Picayune President. She has also accepted and been nominated as President-Elect of MFVC Southern District in the 2024-2026 administration.

LEADS Candidate Cindy Thompson is from Decatur and is a member of the GFWC-MFVC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club. She is serving as Historian and has been a member of Education and Arts committees. She has also been involved in most major projects her club has participated in since joining the club.

LEADS Candidate Tina Waters is from Purvis and is a member of Purvis Woman's Club. She is currently Parliamentarian and became interested in LEADS through

attending GFWC Southern Region Conference and was inspired by the words of GFWC President Deb Strahanowski to out herself wholeheartedly into "Living the Volunteer Spirit" by serving everywhere she can in her organization and beyond.

All candidates attended the LEADS seminar held at Winter Board, and were inspired and informed by Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC 2nd Vice President. She did a presentation on how to best get the word out about your organization through social media, and about creating and utilizing Club websites. This was great information for all present to take back to their home Clubs.

The 2024 LEADS delegate will be announced at the 2024 MFVC State Convention hosted by MFVC Central District at Eagle Ridge.

Messages from Special Appointments

MS Public Broadcasting - Sue S. Freeman

Congratulations to the clubs that won service awards for their support and work on behalf of MPB during 2023! Ladies let's all strive to continue and increase our support and work for MPB during 2024.

Thank you to the individual clubwomen and to the clubs that provided monetary support for MPB during 2023. Please continue to be generous in your financial giving to MPB during 2024, too. **Your continuing support makes it possible for MPB to provide quality television programming; educational videos; and radio programming.**

A special thank you to all the

clubwomen and the clubs that participated in MPB's partnership with the Jumpstart Organization for the **Read for the Record** event that was held in late October 2023. This worthwhile reading program makes a huge difference in our local town libraries and our school libraries. I challenge all the clubs to participate during October 2024 in **Read for the Record**.

Also thank you to the individual clubwomen and to the clubs that provided monetary support for MPB during 2023. Please continue to be generous in your financial giving to MPB during 2024. MPB's funding from the State of Mississippi has decreased in recent years so MPB is

relying more heavily on donations from individuals and companies.

If your club would like to host a speaker for one of its monthly meetings, you may contact Felicia Davis, MPB Early Childhood Education Division Manager, at: Felicia.davis@mpbonline.org or by phone at 601-432-6918. For more information on MPB, visit the website: www.mpbonline.org.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me via email at: Suefreeman5254@gmail.com or by calling or text at 601-946-9297.

MS Library Commission Member - Becky C. Wright

“In accordance with Mississippi Code Title 39. Libraries, Arts, Archives and History §39-3-101. Creation: term of office, one member of the board of commissioners of the Mississippi Library Commission shall be the president of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs or a member of said federation recommended by her.”

What an honor it has been to represent MFWC for almost five years on the Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners! As this commissioner's term nears its end, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve and remind you of the important role our Federation plays in our communities to provide and sustain library services.

Last year, our libraries in Mississippi faced a challenge, and it was your support of the MAGNOLIA project

that came to their aid. This project, a provider of full-text online databases, is a crucial resource for teaching, learning, and lifelong learning in our state's schools, colleges, and public libraries. Our collective voice, reaching out to our representatives, successfully advocated for funding for MAGNOLIA. This achievement stands as a testament to the power of our united efforts and should fill us all with pride.

Getting back to our GFWC roots, our continued advocacy and leadership have built a lighthouse to provide a beacon to guide our communities back to the library. To ensure that the established libraries remain a vital part of our communities, MFWC members have a responsibility to promote and support our libraries. By getting to know MLC—the facility, the staff, and the services provided—our

members are more aware of services available, such as Book Club Kits, Learning Express, Talking Books, and MLC's Book Match.

If you have not visited the [Mississippi Library Commission](#) website, please do so to educate yourself on the depth of the Commission and our history with its establishment and increase your knowledge to strengthen your power of advocacy. With your leadership, advocacy, and service, MFWC not only opens doors but also empowers minds, allowing people to bloom where they are planted. Your role in this, as members of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, is invaluable. It is because of your support and dedication that we can make such a significant impact.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Messages from Standing Committees

Resolutions & Recommendations - Darlene C. Adams

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, consisting of Darlene Adams, Frances Brown, and Melissa Carleton, we are submitting a proposed bipartisan resolution on gender fairness to be voted on at the MFWC Convention this April.

This resolution was originally proposed by the GFWC-MFWC Juniette Diamonds, as this issue has concerned some of their

members in sports. This resolution committee is sympathetic for those struggling with gender dysphoria and the turmoil they may go through without gender-affirming treatment.

However, this committee is also sympathetic to the biological girls and women losing their opportunities for scholarships and furthering their future in sports, as

they lose to biological males.

A vote on this proposal will be held at the MFWC State Convention at Eagle Ridge this April. All voting delegates must be present to vote. The Resolutions Committee asks your consideration to vote yes to this proposed resolution.

Note from Editor - a copy of this resolution can be found on page 25.

Constitutions and Bylaws - Judy T. Martin

With the approval of the Executive Board, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will present a proposed amendment to the Bylaws for consideration at the State Convention.

The Bylaws currently limit the

number of times that a member can serve as State Treasurer to four terms. Voting delegates at State Convention will have the opportunity to vote on whether to remove this limitation on the number of terms that a member can serve as the State Treasurer.

The proposed amendment and rationale are attached to the Call to Convention for clubs to review and discuss before the State Convention. Please contact Judy Martin, Sonya Smith, or Sherri Reid, if you have any questions.

Hebron Memorial Scholarship - Lorri Stockstill

A scholarship, known as the Hebron Memorial Scholarship, maintained by the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc was created. Only female residents of Mississippi shall be eligible to apply and must have graduated from an accredited high school with a good scholastic average or in the case of an applicant for graduate school she must have graduated from an accredited college and must be attending an accredited graduated school. The amount of the scholarship is \$1000.

Each applicant must have endorsements from 3 members of the GFWC-MFWC Federation and 3 other persons relative to scholarship, character and qualities of leadership. She must signify her intention of completing her degree within a 4-yr period.

This year, the Hebron Scholarship committee received the following two applications:

Allee Hadden is from Madison, MS and she attended Jackson Preparatory High School and is currently attending the University of Mississippi and hopes to graduate in 2026. Allee's degree is Allied Health Studies. Her goal is to attend nursing school at the University of Mississippi will allow her to make a difference by improving the lives of Mississippi's tiniest newborns and their families.

Lillian Winter is from Eupora, MS and attended Eupora High School and is currently enrolled at the University of Mississippi and hopes to graduate in 2027. Lillian's degree is in Biomedical Engineering. She has a strong interest in math and

science and wanted to pursue a degree mostly centered around those areas. Lillian's ultimate goal is to become a Dermatologist and eventually own her own clinic so she will be able to help people with their health diagnosing skin conditions for example acne and boost so many individual's by making them more comfortable in their own skin and also diagnose and treat people with major skins conditions like skin cancer as well.

Both applicants are so deserving and as you can see were and are very active in their communities and colleges. The Hebron Memorial Scholarship committee will have a tough job this year deciding our 2024 scholarship winner!

Sarah Peugh Butterfly Scholarship - Belinda Peacher

Hi all! We've had a great response from our Juniorette Clubs this year with seven applicants for the Sarah Peugh Butterfly Scholarship. At publication time, the committee is hard at work reviewing the applications. Each of the applicants is very active in their community and we are proud to have them in our organization. It is always difficult to pick just one, so tune in at State Convention where we will reveal the recipient.

Pictures to the right are of the Sarah Peugh Park in Aberdeen, MS.



Messages from Standing Committees

Challenge Grants Cherry Moon

The GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs have established Challenge Grants to be awarded each year to one teacher in the State of Mississippi that will benefit

students with Learning Disabilities. The primary criterion for this grant is need, and the funds must be used in the classroom such as the purchase of supplies, implementing new

programs or advanced technology. All grant money must be used to benefit the students.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

This year, the Challenge Grant committee received the following three applications:

Celia Boggan Rohrer, Newton County Elementary School who was sponsored by the Decatur Women's Progressive Club. Ms. Rohrer would use the grant funds to purchase 10 Phonics Kits. The kits include a magnetic board with letter tiles which will help guide students in spelling and reinforce phonemic awareness.

Hillary Lovorn, Eupora Elementary School who was sponsored by Eupora New Century Club. Ms. Lovorn teaches the Pre-K class for special need children that are ages 3-5 years old. She would like to purchase a changing table. Most of the children are not potty-trained, and the teachers are now using the floor to change their diapers and pullups.

Caitlyn Castille, Petal Elementary School sponsored by the Cosmopolitan Club. Ms. Castille is

applying for the grant funds to purchase five Hot Dots Sets. These interactive learning systems would help in key areas such as reading comprehension, phonics, sight words, math facts and word problems.

All three applicants are so deserving with wonderful ideas and projects they would like to add to their curriculum for their special need students. As you can see, the Challenge Grant committee will have a tough job this year deciding our 2024 Challenge Grant winner!

Messages from Program Chairmen

GFWC CSP Civic Engagement and Outreach - Shirley Wiltshire

Excited to read about all the programs and projects under Civic Engagement and Outreach for last year. What will 2024 projects and programs look like? What projects/program are you planning in Citizenship, Crime Prevention, Safety and Disaster Preparedness? Then how to help the Needy, Hungry and Homeless in your area. What

are you doing to honor our Military and Veterans? Women in the Coast Guard will be a new emphasis. Our library is sponsoring a Ladies safety class. So that can be a PSP and CEO project. How are you promoting your club projects? Use your social media to share with the public how you are making a difference in your community.

Always hashtag #IAMGFWC and #GFWCMFWCCivicengagementand outreach

Excited to see what new program or project suggestions with GFWC 2024-26 in Civic Engagement and Outreach.

GFWC CSP Education and Libraries - Lisa McGee

Greetings! Hope 2024 is treating everyone well. My area of the state got a Mother Nature imposed staycation of sorts with a snow/ice storm that just kept on and on and on.... Or so it felt.

It is always a pleasure to read the reports from each of the clubs. The creativity exhibited by the clubs to fill the needs of their respective community amazes me. How clubwomen see a need and work tirelessly to fill the needs is such an awesome thing. MFWC ladies are doing some awesome things out there!

Schools and Libraries are the lifeblood of educating a community. Education, in whatever form, helps a community to grow stronger economically. The more educated a community is, the better it can function. And clubwomen play an active role in improving the level of education in a community, whether it be supporting local teachers with a goodie basket, helping at the local library during library card sign up times, supporting GED programs, supporting local librarians, providing snacks for school testing and the list goes on. Club women ROCK!!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Suess

And ladies, after seeing reports year after year, I know clubwomen care a whole awful lot and they are making things better! Hats off to you and thank you so very much for all you do!

GFWC CSP Health and Wellness -Patricia “Pat” Lee

As we are sundowning on the 2022-2024 GFWC-MFWC administration, I hope each club and member has added another tool to their toolbox on how to balance life’s stressors and the importance of mental and emotional well-being and being physically healthy. As women, we are the monarch of the family and everyone from the young to the old turn to us in times of need. We need to take care of ourselves so that we can meet the needs of those in our family and community. Please remember no matter where

you may be, to practice self-care. Take a walk, read a book, get plenty of sleep, meditate in nature. These do not cost us anything to do, and it doesn’t take long to do these things. Thirty minutes a day is good. Remember to set boundaries. Learn to say no. Eat a balanced and nutritious diet. We are social creatures. Don’t forget to connect with others. We thrive when there are positive relationships; don’t forget to connect with community and friends.

In judging the Health and Wellness area of GFWC-MFWC, I see those many things mentioned above in every club. So many projects where you as individuals are interacting and communicating with each other and the community. Each of you is a blessing to your club and community! Keep up the good work as you enjoy life!

GFWC AP Fundraising and Development - Belinda Vowell

It has been a great year of reporting and fundraising. I want to thank all the clubs that participated and members for all the awesome work they put into their projects. Some of the projects were: Cow Patty Plop, Daddy Daughter Dances, and selling a variety of items. There were so many wonderful projects that it was hard to pick just ten! We have

amazingly talented women in all our clubs who have such a heart for their community.

I will miss my time as Fundraising and Development Chairman, but I know whoever takes my place will do a fabulous job! Keep volunteering for your community, town, and state.

GFWC AP Legislation/Public Policy - Annajeral Knight

This Chairman received 13 General club reports and 1 Juniette club report this year.

With 267 active members calling, writing, and emailing their opinions and concerns, I would say we women of MS are involved! A total of 1,331 hours were devoted to this MFWC special emphasis for GFWC. There were 66 projects reported.

Great pages of collaboration and documentation were turned in with reports. Copies of letters, emails, and replies from legislators and photos of programs showing club members participating in projects and events were included.

My Top 10 projects are as follows:

- #1 – Star Woman’s Club. The Star Woman’s Club reported 761 volunteer hours and 10 projects for this area. They organized an old-fashioned political stump for candidates seeking office in an upcoming election to speak to the community about their beliefs and policies. The candidates stood on the side of a 1950 flatbed Ford truck to shout their platforms and inform a large crowd of onlookers of what they planned to do to serve the folks of Rankin County and the state of Mississippi. They also organized a bake sale during this event to

raise money for their club.

- #2 – Fine Arts Club of Bruce. The Fine Arts Club of Bruce reported 90 hours of service for this program. They purchased copies of the MFWC History Book and gave it to two of their newly elected legislators so they could learn more about the history of the MFWC. They wanted them to be able to read and understand what our volunteer service club is all about.
- #3 – Civic Club of Picayune. The Civic Club of Picayune reported 213 hours of service for this program. They had good pictures and documentation. They provided copies of letters and

emails that they sent back and forth to their legislators concerning upcoming bills and changes.

- #4 – Cosmopolitan Club. The Cosmopolitan Club of Petal reported 54 hours. They sent letters and emails and made phone calls to their legislators pertaining to bills that they found interesting and important to the needs of the southern counties in Mississippi.
- #5 – Decatur Woman's Progressive Club. The Decatur Woman's Progressive Club reported 37 volunteer hours for this program. They stayed in touch with their legislators and made phone calls and sent emails.
- #6 – Twentieth Century Club of Bruce. The Twentieth Century Club of Bruce joined the Legislation Action Center. Members took action by contacting their legislators.
- #7 – Poplarville Woman's Club. The Poplarville Woman's Club conducted a Voter Empowerment Education workshop.
- #8 – Homochitto Heritage Club. The Homochitto Heritage Club took the high school senior class

to tour the Mississippi State Capital.

- #9 – Crystal Springs Floral Club. The Crystal Springs Floral Club wrote emails and called state legislators regarding legislation.
- #10 – Iuka Twentieth Century Club. The Iuka Twentieth Century Club worked with the IDEA group (Iuka Development Education Association) on public advancement projects for the city.

There was only one Juniorette club that sent a report this year. The Juniorette Diamonds wrote a resolution based off the Mississippi Fairness Act Bill SB2536. Since several members ran cross country or swam, they thought this was important because it allowed biological males to compete against biological females. They had one member who served as a page at the State Capital.

Phone calls, letters, and emails were the primary ways that all of these club members communicated this year. Two clubs started the Legislation and Public Policy Scavenger Hunt but did not finish or complete the hunt.

There are a lot of club members that

know their legislators personally, and they talk directly to them on a regular basis. A great many club women keep up with what is going on in our state and country with good articles on the GFWC website. We still have great TV reporters who report the news straight forward from our TV stations. An unnamed club member once stated at a meeting that "Men legislate, and women agitate to get the job done."

At summer institute in the start of my chairmanship, my display table had take-away copies of the Legislative Action Center on the GFWC website and copies of the Legislation and Public Policy scavenger hunt guidelines. There were copies of my name and address for anyone wanting to contact me. There were red and white peppermint candies with American flags on the packages to show my patriotism and give everyone a taste for legislation and public policy.

Thank you to everybody who turned in their information for Legislation/ Public Policy this year. The winners will be announced at state convention.

Messages from GFWC Contest Chairmen

GFWC Jennie Award Program - Melba Watkins

The Jennie Award, named for Jane Cunningham Croly, considers club members for not only their volunteer service to GFWC and their state clubs but for a plethora of other outstanding characteristics.

Women are remarkable human beings who handle their responsibilities with grace, charm, understanding and a great ability to work through difficult situations. They care for their homes, their

immediate families and in many cases, extended family. They are organized, independent and willing to maneuver out of their comfort zone to "make things happen". They take on duties with their churches, their local schools, civic organizations and in their workplaces. They are leaders!

GFWC names a Jennie Award winner as the only award given for personal achievement by a clubwoman. The

recipient is the epitome of service through all areas of her life. She is bold in her commitment to her family, her community and her club.

Mississippi's Jennie Award was earned by Jeannie Johns Pittman of the Florentine Club of Florence and indeed an excellent choice for the recognition.

Congratulations to Jeannie!

GFWC-MISSISSIPPI FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.

The Nominating Committee
presents the following
nominess for the 2024-2026
Administration Elected Officers:

Frances H. Brown
President-elect

Michelle Sutton
Vice President

Rebecca "Becky" W. Watkins
Recording Secretary

Diane Rouse
Treasurer

Meet the Proposed Slate of 2024-2026

GFWC-MFWC Elected Officers

I am very thankful that many of you did not block the Nominating Committee phone numbers after January 1st. That is when the committee (Becky Wright-Northern District, Judy Martin-Central District, Shirley Wiltshire-Southern District) starts to look at names submitted by MFWC membership for offices that needed to be filled for 2024-26.

This committee looked at by-law requirements to hold MFWC office. Looking through Mississippi Clubwoman

magazine that is online at the MFWC website a list was compiled of members that have served on MFWC boards at State and District levels. With these committee members busy schedules a Zoom meeting was set up to go over prospective officer list. Phone calls started shortly thereafter. Then wait! Then responses were received!

Thank you for your positive responses and for fellow members that have pledged to help those that have agreed to serve. #IamGFWC

#GFWCMFWCVolunteerSpirit.
#SparkleandShine. Looking forward to serving with the 2024-26 Leadership team for MFWC.

The following members have been nominated and will be elected to serve at the State Convention. Carolyn Tedford will serve as President (already elected). Slate of officers nominated: President-elect-Frances Brown; Vice President-Michelle Sutton; Secretary-Becky Watkins, Treasurer-Diane Rouse.

Nomination Guidelines

According to the GFWC-MFWC Constitution, the General Officers of the Federation shall be: a President, a President-elect, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected or appointment as prescribed by the GFWC-MFWC Bylaws.

All members who wish to advance up the ladder of leadership in the GFWC-MFWC must adhere to the following eligibility requirement:

- Only members whose dues are paid shall be eligible to hold office,
- To be eligible for the office of President-elect, a candidate must have served on the Executive Board for four consecutive years, two years as an elected officer. To be eligible for the office of Vice President, a candidate must have served on the Executive Board two full administrative terms within the past ten years.

How does a member in good standing, get nominated to one of the above position:

- First, a Nominating Committee composed of one member from each district is form.

- Clubs may send suggestions for candidates to the Nominating Committee. The deadline for such suggestions shall be January 1 of the even-numbered years.
- The Nominating Committee shall present names of candidates for each office to be filled, after having secured their consent to serve if elected.
- At the State Convention, members are given the privilege of making nominations from the floor, after which the voting shall proceed by ballot.
- The majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election. The balloting, which shall be done at the time and place designated by the State President, shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. Each voting delegate as designated by the Credentials Committee shall be allowed to cast a ballot.
 - b. There shall be no campaigning or electioneering in the room when the election is held.
 - c. The election shall be held on one day only.
 - d. There shall be no proxy or absentee votes. No woman

may vote in more than one capacity.

- e. Where there is but one candidate for an office a viva-voce vote may be taken.

Upon election at even year State Convention, the following rules apply:

- The term of office shall be two years or until such time as a successor assumes office.
- Officers shall serve from the adjournment of the Convention at which they are elected until the adjournment of the Convention at which their successors are elected. The President-elect shall assume the duties of the office of President at the adjournment of the next even-numbered calendar year Convention.
- No officer shall serve more than one term in the same office, with the exception of Treasurer
- No officer shall hold more than one office at the same time.

On the following pages, you will find a Letter of Endorsement on each of the proposed nominees for the GFWC-MFWC 2024-2026 Administration.

For the Office of GFWC-MFWC President-elect Frances H. Brown

The GFWC-MFWC Bruce Civic Club, formerly known as the GFWC-MFWC Twentieth Century Club of Bruce, is honored to endorse the nomination of Frances H. Brown for GFWC-MFWC President-elect. She has been an active member of the GFWC-MFWC Twentieth Century Club of Bruce since 2004. She has served her club as treasurer, secretary, vice-president, president, and chairman of various CSP programs, projects, and committees. She currently serves as club secretary. She served two terms as district treasurer, served as 2016-2018 District III President, and currently serves as Northern District Chaplain. As District President, she initiated a district scholarship for young women with financial insecurities.

She has served on the MFWC Board since 2010 in various positions including Home Life Chairman, Media Campaign Chairman, Jennie Award Chairman, co-chairman for the President's Special Project under two administrations, and two terms as Advocates for Children Chairman. As Advocates for Children Chairman, she organized a team, Mississippi Federated Clubwomen and Friends, to raise funds for St. Jude and has continued to participate in the Walk to End Childhood Cancer. She served as MFWC Secretary 2018-2020. During this administration she served as the President's Personal Assistant and organized a fundraiser to help fund SRC hosted by Mississippi.

She attended the Mississippi LEADS seminar in 2008, was named 2009 GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year, was selected 2017 MFWC Jennie Nominee and was

selected as a Southern Region finalist.

She retired from Mississippi State Department of Health after 33 years of service as a Public Health Nurse, only to return to work as a mental health nurse. Currently, she is a full-time volunteer and loving it.



In her community she served on the Sawmill Festival Committee for ten years, School Board for six years, and was Relay for Life Team Chairman. She organized a school support group in 2000 and devoted many volunteer hours at the school. Frances is an active member of Bruce First Baptist Church. She has served on various committees, taught Sunday School for women with disabilities, taught girls mission group for over 20 years, and currently serves on the hostess committee.

She is the proud mother of two grown children, Christi (Larry) and Aaron (Bridgette), and extremely proud Mimi/Frana/Mama Frances of six grands and 2 great grands. Her hobbies include spending time with her family, making jump ropes from discarded t-shirts for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, playing cards with friends and taking care of anyone who needs a helping hand.

With her proven history of dedication to her community and the federation, GFWC-MFWC Twentieth Century Club of Bruce proudly supports Frances H. Brown for the office of GFWC-MFWC President-elect.

For the Office of GFWC-MFWC Vice President Michelle Sutton

The Pontotoc Woman's Club supports the candidacy of Michelle Crane Sutton for the office of MFWC Vice President. Michelle has served in numerous offices for our local club and is willing to assist others in different areas.

Areas of Michelle's expertise and experience:

- Served as MFWC Writing Chairman.
- Served as President of our club locally

- Serves as Secretary of our club locally currently
- Serves as Juniorette Chairman currently
- Compiled a notebook to assist new presidents of our local club (This has assisted me in my years as president.)
- Compiles our current Scrapbook

We support Michelle with no hesitation, and we know that she will



be an asset to any office or position that she assumes.

For the Office of GFWC-MFWC Recording Secretary Rebecca “Becky” W. Watkins

The Quitman Woman’s Club is pleased to offer our endorsement of Becky Watkins as GFWC-MFWC Secretary for 2024-2026. Most recently, Becky has served as the GFWC-MFWC Treasurer for 2022-2024.

Since becoming a GFWC-MFWC member in 2007, Becky has served in numerous leadership capacities, most notably as Quitman Woman’s Club President for three terms and currently serves as MFWC Central District President-Elect. Selected as our GFWC LEADS for 2021, and presently is a member of the Leading Ladies. Determined, dedicated, dependable, and persistent, Becky has proven organizational and leadership skills in her family, in our club, in our community, and in our Federation.

Becky and her husband Steve have 8 children, three of whom were

adopted from the foster care system. Awarded the Mississippi Child Advocate of the Year in 2000 and the Congressional Angel of Adoption Award in 2010, she has garnered numerous appointments to legislative committees and advisory councils. Additionally, she was elected to the Quitman School District Board of Trustees as the first female, serving from 2012-2017. Becky presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Clarke County Chamber of Commerce and is a past member of the Mississippi Industrial Development Council. Her background in writing and administration of federal-state grants demonstrates her abilities to serve as our GFWC-MFWC Secretary.

Becky and her family are active members of Quitman First Methodist Church, where she currently serves on the Council of

Ministries. She takes great pride in being a wife, mother, and grandmother to 12 beautiful grandchildren. Her husband, Steve Watkins, presently serves as the Mayor of the City of Quitman.



As an ambassador for her community and promoter of volunteer philanthropy, Becky has continued to serve her community as Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, President of the East MS Regional Library, and in seeking arts grants for our community. While she will be stepping down as our local President, Becky is an exemplary candidate that we proudly endorse and recommend as our 2024-2026 GFWC-MFWC Secretary candidate.

For the Office of GFWC-MFWC Treasurer Diane Rouse

The GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club of Florence, MS proudly endorses Diane Rouse for the office of GFWC-MFWC Treasurer. Dianne has been a member of the GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club since 2002. Since joining she has served as Club President, Corresponding and Recording secretary, Reporting Chairman, and Chairman of various committees. Dianne has served on MFWC board since 2006 serving as Meeting coordinator and since 2010 served dual role as MFWC Ways and Means Chairman and LEADS Representative the GFWC International Convention in Milwaukee, Wi. Diane was elected

and previously served as MFWC Treasurer from 2010 to 2020.

A Rankin County native, Diane is a Graduate of Brandon Academy and hold a degree in Interior design and marketing from Stratford Women's College in Atlanta, Ga. But she pursued a number of other career choices through the years as well. Church Treasurer, Budget Analyst at The Mississippi Department of Education and most recently prior to leaving State Government, Personnel Director at the Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Since 2005 Diane has enjoyed working part time as a free-lance designer and in 2009 added a partner in a Catering

business to her resume. She is finally retired and enjoys spending time with her husband Clay, traveling, reading, gardening, decorating, shopping, serving in church wherever needed and volunteering in her community. Diane has two grown sons, Jeremy and Justin, and 2 grandsons, Brody and Levi and 2 granddaughters, Paislee and Emily.



GFWC-MFWC President 2024-2026

As you know, the GFWC-MFWC President-Elect automatically assumes the office of GFWC-MFWC President. She does not stand for election. Your incoming GFWC-MFWC President will be Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford of the Poplarville Woman's Club.

According to the GFWC-MFWC Bylaws, the President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Official representative of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.

Her duties are as follows:

- To represent the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs at all meetings of the GFWC,
- To appoint all Community Service Program Chairmen,
- To appoint all Standing and Special Chairmen and Committees,
- To approve all programs of work and supervise activities of Standing and Special Committees,
- To appoint the Editor and Assistant Editor, and Circulation Editor of the Mississippi Clubwoman and serve as an ex-officio member of the Editorial Staff,
- To oversee the publication of the Mississippi Clubwoman and approve the final copy prior to publication of each issue,
- To serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee,
- To issue, together with the Recording Secretary, the Call to the Convention at least six weeks prior to the date of the Convention,
- To call all meetings of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, the Executive Committee and the Executive Board, and to preside at all meetings of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs., Notice of such meetings shall be sent one month in advance,
- To appoint a Juniorette Director, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Chaplain, their terms of office to be the same as that of the elected officers, or until their successors are appointed.
- To sign for the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, together with the Recording Secretary, such leases and contracts for the duration of her term which have been approved by the Executive Board,
- To co-sign with the President-elect all contracts extending beyond the duration of her term of office,
- To ensure that all legally required documents are filed in a timely manner,
- To sign, with the Treasurer, checks for authorized expenditures within the budgetary limitations.

Let's congratulate our next State President, Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford.

Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford

GFWC-MFWC President 2024-2026

Carolyn was chosen as her club's first LEADS Candidate in 2018. She represented MFWC as its LEADS Delegate to the 2018 GFWC International Convention. Since becoming a GFWC- MFWC member she has served in numerous leadership capacities, most notably as Poplarville Woman's Club President. Additionally, she has served as District I Arts Chairman and on the MFWC Board as Home Life Community Service Program Assistant Chairman, Fundraiser Assistant Chairman, a member of the Challenge Grant Scholarship Committee and is currently serving as MFWC Membership Chairman.

Her willingness to serve and her commitment to the Federation is evident in the fact that she serves currently as Treasurer for the Poplarville Woman's Club and Scholarship Chairman.

Dedicated to serving her community, Carolyn has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for children and adults, building a foundation of excellence through a love of book, most importantly providing an environment for learning with Poplarville Reads and Excel by 5.

Currently serving as Vice President of the Putting on the Pink

Foundation Board and Secretary of the Blueberry Jubilee Council provides additional opportunities to hone her leadership skills as well as impact her community through numerous service projects. She has been recognized for her service through receiving Volunteer of the Year, Citizen of the Year and Paul Harris Fellow Award.



(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Carolyn and her husband Richard have one daughter, one son, one granddaughter and a grandson. She is a retired School Administrator and teacher. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling,

reading, and volunteering to make a difference.

Determined, dependable, compassionate, and persistent, Carolyn is obviously a woman who gives her all in anything and everything she does. Her

commitment to the Poplarville community, the Poplarville Woman’s Club, education, and her federation is no exception. We are all better because of the hard work, dedication and inspiration Carolyn consistently provides.



Florentine Club (above) and the Fine Arts Club of Waynesboro (below)



MFWC Clubwomen reading in character at State Convention, April 2023, Tupelo, MS.

2024



126th Annual State Convention



You are hereby invited to attend
a celebration of "Getting Back
To Our Roots"

April 25 27 2024

Eagle Ridge Conference Center
Raymond MS

OFFICIAL CALL

GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.
126th State Convention
Eagle Ridge Conference Center & Resort
1500 Raymond Lake Road
Raymond, MS 39154
April 25-27, 2024

Theresa Buntyn, GFWC-MFMC President 2022-2024

Bloom Where You Are *Planted*, "Getting Back to Our GFWC Roots" by promoting public libraries, education, and literacy.

The One Hundred Twenty-sixth Annual Convention of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., will be held in Raymond, Mississippi, Thursday - Saturday, April 25 – 27, 2024.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

The Convention is open to all members of GFWC-MFMC.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Registration Schedule: | Thursday, 4/25 | 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. |
| | Friday, 4/26 | 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| | Saturday, 4/27 | 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. |

Registration Table will be in the Lobby of Eagle Ridge Conference Center & Resort in Raymond, MS.

All members attending must be registered. Advance registration is necessary for all meal tickets. Prices and the meal reservation form, along with the Credentials Card, can be found on the page 4.

DEADLINES:

- **The deadline for meal reservations to be received is April 1, 2024.**
Meal reservations may not be guaranteed if received after this date.
- **The absolute deadline for hotel reservations is April 5, 2024.**
The group-block room rate is **\$89.00** per night (*not including tax and fees*) for two people, **\$99.00** per night (*not including tax and fees*) for three people and **\$109.00** per night (*not including tax and fees*) for four people. You may make your own room reservations by calling **(601) 857-7100** and **referencing the name of the block as "MS Federation of Women's Clubs"**. Check-in is **3:00 p.m.**; Checkout is **12:00 p.m.**

EXHIBITS

The **Exhibit Room** will close at 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 26th. **ALL** Youth Art, Photography, Scrapbook, and Yearbook entries **MUST be picked up** between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. Clubs are completely responsible for retrieving entries from the Exhibit Room.

REPRESENTATION

The Voting Body shall consist of the General Officers; Appointed Officers; Past State Presidents; State Chairmen of Standing Committees, Special Committees and Community Service Programs; District Officers and Chairmen, corresponding with those of the State; and regularly accredited Club delegates. Voting delegates shall wear a special designation on their name badges. Each Federation Club of fifteen (15) members or less shall be entitled to representation by the President or her appointee and one elected delegate. For each additional membership of fifteen (15) or major fraction thereof, a club shall be allowed another delegate.

RESOLUTIONS

Emergency resolutions may be presented to the Resolutions Committee. All other resolutions must be submitted in advance, pursuant to Article IX, Section 9 of the GFWC-MFMC Bylaws. *An emergency resolution is one arising from a sudden condition calling for immediate action, which because of its nature could not have been submitted at the designated time.*

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT SERVICE PROJECT

At this convention, there is one last opportunity to participate in my President's Special Project of "Getting Back to Our GFWC Roots" by promoting public libraries, education, and literacy. I am requesting that all attendees bring 1 or 2 books to be donated to local public libraries. Your books donation can be targeted toward children or adults to inspire reading.

Dress Code for Convention

- Thursday Evening Executive Board Meeting/Dinner – Business Casual Attire
- Friday Business Session – Business Casual Attire
- Friday Night Banquet – Formal, Semi-formal or Sunday Attire
- Saturday Morning Business Session and Executive Board Meeting 24-26 – GFWC, MFWC or Club apparel or casual traveling clothes.

TENTATIVE Schedule of Events*

Thursday, April 25:

- 2:00 p.m.** **Audit Committee Meeting – President's Suite**
- 3:00 p.m.** **Finance and Executive Committee Meetings – President's Suite**
- 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.** **Registration – ERCC Lobby**
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** **GFWC-MFWC Executive Board Dinner and Meeting – ERCC Dining Room**
All GFWC-MFWC members are invited. However, only Board members are allowed to vote.

Friday, April 26:

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** **Gavel Club Breakfast – Executive Board Room**
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** **Breakfast - ERCC Dining Room**
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Registration – ERCC Lobby**
- 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **Shop Vendors – ERCC Gallery**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Convention Convenes — ERCC Auditorium**
Business Session, Reports and Awards
- Election of 2024-2026 Officers
 - State Officer Reports
 - Awards
- Noon – 2:30 p.m.** **Luncheon with featured speakers & Awards - ERCC Dining Room**
- Featuring Authors
 - Awards
- 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.** **Business Session & Awards — ERCC Auditorium**
- Awards
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.** **Pick up All Exhibits - Youth Art, Photography, Books - Chef & Presidential Dining Rooms**
- 6:05 – 7:00 p.m.** **Photo Opportunities – ERCC Lobby**
- 7:15 p.m.** **Processional Assembles - outside ERCC Dining Room**
(MS LEADS Participants, District Presidents, District Clubwomen of the Year, Presidents of District Clubs of the Year, Past State Presidents, GFWC-MFWC Elected Officers, & GFWC Guest)
- 7:30 – 8:40 p.m.** **Banquet & Awards – Featuring Laurie O'Kelly – GFWC-Southern Region Vice President - ERCC Dining Room**
- Recognition of District Clubwomen of the Year, District Clubs of the Year, District Presidents, MS LEADS Participants, Scholarship/Grants Winners, Juniorette Awards
- 8:45 – 9:15 p.m.** **MFWC Installation of Officers by Laurie O'Kelly - ERCC Auditorium**
- 9:30 p.m.** **Reception— honoring Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford, GFWC-MFWC 2024-2026 President – ERCC Lobby**

Saturday, April 27:

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.** **Registration – ERCC Lobby**
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** **Prayer Breakfast featured speaker and Memorial Service – ERCC Dining Room**
- 9:45 – 11:45 a.m.** **Business Session & Awards – ERCC Auditorium**
- Noon** **Adjournment of 126th Annual State Convention**
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.** **Executive Board Meeting 24-26 Administration (Invitation only) – ERCC Dining Room**

REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Mail To:

Diane Rouse
2323 Tiffany Circle
Florence, MS 39073

Name: _____
District: _____ **Club:** _____
Phone: _____ " Cell " Home " Work " Other
Email: _____

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Registration (1 day only) | 15.00 | _____ |
| Registration (more than 1 day) | 20.00 | _____ |
| Executive Board Dinner, Thursday Night, 4/25 | 33.00 | _____ |
| Gavel Club Breakfast, Friday Morning, 4/26 (Gavel Club Members Only) | 24.00 | _____ |
| Breakfast, Friday, 4/26 | 25.00 | _____ |
| Luncheon, Friday, 4/26 | 33.00 | _____ |
| Banquet, Friday Night, 4/26 | 40.00 | _____ |
| Prayer Breakfast, Saturday Morning, 4/27 | 25.00 | _____ |
| Executive Board 24-26 Luncheon, Saturday Afternoon, 4/27 (By invitation only) | 19.00 | _____ |
| Choose One: <input type="checkbox"/> Club Sandwich, Chips, <input type="checkbox"/> Chef Salad | | |
| Registration Late Fee (Per GFWC-MFWC Standing Rules #8, a late fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for registrations received after the deadline.) | 10.00 | _____ |
| TOTAL: \$ | | _____ |

Allergies: _____ Medication in Emergency: _____
Notify in Emergency: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Home Work Other

CREDENTIALS CARD

GFWC-MFWC 126th Annual Convention

Name: _____ **Club:** _____ **District:** _____

- I am a Non-Voting Delegate.**
I am a Voting Delegate because I am: (Please mark *only* the highest position you hold.)
- An elected or appointed State Officer of GFWC-MFWC. _____
 - A Past State President of GFWC-MFWC. _____
 - A State Chairman of a Standing Committee, Special Committee, or CSP. _____
 - A District Officer or Chairman corresponding with those of the State. _____
 - A regularly accredited club delegate. *(Each club of 15 members or less shall be entitled to representation by the President or her appointee and 1 elected delegate. For each additional membership of 15 or major fraction thereof, a club shall be allowed another delegate.)*

If voting delegate, please have Club President to sign, and mail this along with your meal reservations.
_____, Club President

Postmark/Submit Deadline for Registration is April 1, 2024.

Two Ways to pay for GFWC-MFWC Annual Convention. Check one.

- Pay by check.** Mail Registration/Meal/Credentials Card and check (made payable to GFWC-MFWC 2024 State Convention) for total amount to: Diane Rouse, 2323 Tiffany Circle, Florence, MS 39073. Be sure to include 2024 State Convention on memo line.
- Pay by Venmo.** Complete Registration/Meal/Credentials Card and email form to Diane Rouse at crouse99@yahoo.com. Make payment by Venmo.



venmo

Scan this code to pay

Diane Rouse
@Diane-Rouse-10

NO REFUNDS AFTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF APRIL 1, 2024

GFWC-MFWC Resolution Committee
Proposed Resolution – Gender Fairness
Presented to MFWC Winter Board, February 17, 2024

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GFWC JUNIORETTE CLUBS
AND GENDER EQUITY**

WHEREAS, there are inherent biological differences between men and women that range from chromosomal and hormonal differences to physiological differences; and

WHEREAS, men generally have stronger and denser bones, tendons, and ligaments and larger hearts, greater lung volume per body mass, a higher red blood cell count, and higher hemoglobin; and

WHEREAS, men also have higher natural levels of testosterone, which affects traits such as hemoglobin levels, body fat content, the storage and use of carbohydrates, and the development of Type 2 muscle fibers, all of which result in men being able to generate higher speed and power during physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the biological differences between men and women, especially as it relates to natural levels of testosterone, explain the male and female secondary sex characteristics which develop during puberty and have lifelong effects, including the following factors that are most important for success in athletic sports: categorically different strength, speed and endurance; and

WHEREAS, the benefits that natural testosterone provides to male athletes is not diminished through the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. A recent study on the impact of such treatments found that even after twelve (12) months of hormonal therapy, a man who identifies as a woman and is taking cross-sex hormones had an absolute advantage over female athletes and will still likely have performances advantages over women; and

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (“GFWC”) has long sponsored Juniorette Clubs throughout the country whose members range in ages from twelve (12) to eighteen (18), who pay dues and who have voting privileges at the GFWC Annual Convention. Many of the GFWC Juniorette members face the prospect of competing against and facing unfair biological advantages from biological males who are being allowed to participate in high school athletic events, sports and competitions that were established for biological female athletes; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Acknowledge and support the science that recognizes there will be significant numbers of biologically male athletes, starting in puberty, who would defeat the best biologically female athletes in every head-to-head sport competition except sailing, shooting, and riding; and
- Acknowledge and support having separate biologically male and female teams and competitions furthering efforts to promote sex equality. Sex-specific teams accomplish this by providing opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their skill, strength, and athletic abilities while also providing them with opportunities to obtain recognition and accolades, college scholarships, and numerous other long-term benefits that flow from success in athletic endeavors; and
- Support that athletic teams, competitions or sports designated for females, women or girls shall not be open to students who are males, men or boys, based on biological sex.

GFWC-MFWC Resolution Committee Members:
Darlene C. Adams, Chairman
Frances Brown
Melissa Carleton

Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends that the following amendment to the Bylaws

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends that the following amendment to the Bylaws be appended to the Call to Convention for consideration at the 2024 State Convention.

Amend Article III, Section 2.C to provide that the number of terms that one person may serve as State Treasurer are unlimited by inserting the word "the" before Treasurer; deleting the phrase "the officer to be limited to no more than four terms"; and inserting the phrase "who may serve an unlimited number of terms."

IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: *No officer shall serve more than one term in the same office, with the exception of the Treasurer, who may serve an unlimited number of terms ~~the officer to be limited to no more than four (4) terms.~~*

RATIONALE: The office of Treasurer is very difficult to fill and requires experience and training. This amendment would allow any qualified candidate to stand for election and serve, if elected.

PROVISO: If adopted at the State Convention, these amendments, along with any necessary editorial changes shall take effect immediately upon passage at the State Convention.



Why purchase an ad in our Convention Program Book, well let's count the ways ...

At the District Level

- To recognize your District President or District Board
- To recognize your District Club and Clubwoman of the Year
- Recognize the clubs in your district

At the Club Level

- To recognize a clubwoman who has 25+ year of service to your club, the MFWC or the GFWC
- To recognize your clubwoman of the year
- To share with everyone else your club's anniversary or federation date. Several of our clubs are celebrating the 85+ year mark.
- To honor you club president or your club's board
- An upcoming club event or accomplishment that you want to bring attention to
- To recognize a club member or members who serves on the District, State, Region or GFWC Board
- If you are the District Club of the Year or if the District Clubwoman of the Year is a member of your club, you may wish to share this accomplishment with everyone.
- Honor or Recognize your clubs LEADS participant
- Honor or Recognize a clubwoman who has been nominated for an elected GFWC-MFWC Officers position.

At the personal level

- To honor a fellow clubwoman for her outstanding accomplishments

Another reason to purchase an ad:

- All ads help to offset the printing cost of our convention program book and other convention expenses.

Now that you have decided to purchase an ad ... who can purchase the ad:

- Clubwoman
- Club
- Friends & Family
- A business who wishes to show their support for your club and the MFWC.
- The town in which your club is located may wish to show support for your club or recognize your club's volunteer effects or they may just wish to thank you for a job well done.
- Etc.

When selling or buying an ad in the Convention Program, please provide the following information for each ad:

- Name of Company/Person/Club purchasing the ad
- Contact information on person selling ad, i.e., name, email address & phone number.
- Ad size and Amount Paid

Important Instructions and Comments:

- One ad per ad form.
- All ad information and payment should be submitted with State Convention Ad Form, which can be found on our website at: https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Official_Calls.html.
- Make check(s) payable to GFWC-MFWC 2024 State Convention and note on the check that it is for a convention ad.
- Mail check(s) and completed form to Lisa A. Harris, 822 SCR 115 S, Raleigh, MS 39153. You may email your ad to lisaharris@outlook.com or mail to Lisa at the above address.

Deadline - (postmarked) April 10, 2024.

2024 GFWC-MFWC**State Convention Program Ad Form**

The 2024 State Convention will be held April 25-27, 2024, in Raymond, Mississippi.

When selling or buying an ad in the Convention Program, please complete the following information for each ad submitted.

| Ad Size (check one) | Cost |
|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full page (9.4" h x 6.9" w) | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ page (4.5" h x 6.8" w) | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ page (4.5" h x 3.6" w) | \$30 |

Name of Company/Person purchasing the ad:

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Name of Clubwoman selling the ad:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Club: _____

City: _____

Ordering Instructions:

- All ad information and payment should be submitted with this form.
- Make check(s) payable to: GFWC-MFWC 2024 State Convention and make note on the check(s) that it is for a convention ad.
- Mail check(s) and completed form to:
Lisa A. Harris, 822 SCR 115 S, Raleigh, MS 39153.
- Email ad to lisaharris@outlook.com.
- Questions – call Lisa at (601) 940-1519.



Deadline -- (postmarked) April 10, 2024

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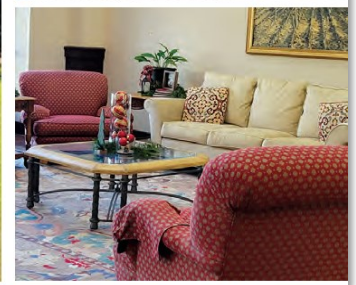


Deadline -- (postmarked) April 10, 2024

Lodging At Eagle Ridge Conference Center and Rest

1500 Raymond Lake Road

Raymond, MS 39154



| ACCOMMODATIONS | PROPERTY AMENITIES |
|----------------|--------------------|
|----------------|--------------------|

Whether you are staying with us for several days for a conference, or just need to rest up the night before a golf tournament, we have rooms to fit your needs.

KING-SIZED EXECUTIVE SUITE

- 1 King Bed
- Sleeper Sofa
- Sleeps 4
- Separate kitchenette and sitting area

AMENITIES

- Full size Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Free Wifi
- Cable Television
- Coffee Maker with amenities
- Iron and full-size ironing board
- Hair Dryer



DOUBLE FULL-SIZE BEDS

- 2 Full Size Beds
- Sleeps 4

AMENITIES

- Free Wifi
- Cable Television
- Coffee Maker
- Accessible rooms available
- Iron/ironing board available on request
- Hair Dryer



- Outdoor challenge course
- Team building facilitators
- Professional development trainers
- Computer training facilitators
- Fishing lake available to guests
- 18-Hole Golf Course
- Golf Shop
- Private Lessons with PGA Pro
- Information & Booking:
- 601-857-5993



Those we *Love*
don't go away.

They *Walk* beside us
every day. Unseen, unheard,

but always *Near,*
so loved ,so missed ,
so very

Dear.



In Loving Memory

Northern District

- June Ferguson Vaughn, Fine Arts Club of Bruce

Central District

- Virginia "Ginger" Mangum Smith, Star Woman's Club
- Kathryn "Kitty" Wilson Hensarling, Crystal Springs Floral Club
- Tommye Jean Rosenbaum, Walnut Grove Thursday Club & Gavel Club
- Ivous Sisk, Gavel Club

Southern District

- Doris Mae "Nena" Revon, Women's Club of Gulfport
- Anne French Pierce, Women's Club of Gulfport

Your *Life*
Was A Blessing

Your *Memory* A Treasure...

You Are *Loved* Beyond Words
and Missed Beyond Measure





General Federation of Women's Club



1734 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990

Phone:

202-347-3168

For membership information:

800-443-GFWC

www.gfwc.org

CHICAGO 

SPARKLE. SHINE. SUCCEED



2024

GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 28

LEADS

Board of Directors Meeting

Host State Night

June 29

Opening Ceremony

June 30

Gala Night

July 1

Installation

HILTON CHICAGO

\$229 + TAXES & FEES



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

GFWC Southern Region Conference



Cooking up a Good Time in Greenville

Save the date

October 3-6, 2024

Looking Forward to 2024

- * **GFWC Federation Day - April 24th**
- * **2024 GFWC Annual Convention - June 29th to July 1st**
- * **Installation of 2024-2026 GFWC Officers and Adjournment of Annual Convention - July 1st**
- * **GFWC Southern Region Conference - October 3rd -**



Available Now at GFWC Members Portal, look under Resources, C, Clubwoman Magazine.



GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine* is the premier publication of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, and one of the most useful and beneficial communication tools we have to inform and educate our Federation about community service opportunities, project ideas, and ways to enhance club operations. Published quarterly, the magazine is a source for insightful and informative content that keeps our members in tune with all things GFWC. The magazine is released early March, June, September, and December, and all electronic issues are archived in the GFWC Member Portal, Resources, C, Clubwoman Magazine.