

GFWC-Mississippi Federation
of Women's Clubs, Inc.



Dear Federation Friends,

It is my great pleasure to serve as your State President for this 2014-2016 Administration, with this administration's theme: *"Bringing Hope – Changing Lives."* MFWC brings **hope** through our Community Service Programs, our GFWC Signature Project "Domestic Violence" and our MFWC President's Special Project, the American Cancer Society.

When our clubs across the state of Mississippi bring **hope** into their communities, lives will be **changed**. Get involved, make a difference and report it. Let your voice and your actions be joined with women across our state, nation and the world. Coming together as advocates for the common good, "Living the Volunteer Spirit" as one of the oldest women's volunteer organization. What a heritage we share, locally and internationally!

As a member of GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., you are receiving this 2014-2016 MFWC Manual, compiled with all of GFWC's Community Service Programs and Advancement Areas, Contest information and forms. The manual also includes all of MFWC's Special Emphasis Areas, such as our State Institutions, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, President's Special Project, our LEADS program, our Scholarships and Contest Guidelines and Forms.

We have selected a very unique front cover, designed by Lisa Harris, Media/Communications and Technology Coordinator. To coincide with the President's Special Project, the various colors represent some of the various cancers discovered. You may notice the colored letters are "fading out" as we get closer these next two years to *"...finish the fight,"* so one day there will be no color needed to represent a cancer.

I am excited about our new directory in this manual that includes pictures! I love putting a face to a name, similar to the GFWC directory. I showed Ms. Harris, what I wanted, and thanks to her talents, she was able to duplicate and even added her finishing touches. We regret we did not get all photos needed, but, as soon as we receive them, we will have updates posted on the web for your easy download.

Did you know this manual is compiled in three separate digital files for your easy access and quicker download? They are:

1. Governance
2. Directory
3. GFWC and MFWC Program/Project/Scholarship/Contest Guidelines and Forms.

Bringing Hope – Changing Lives

Each club should present a copy of this MFWC Manual to each club member. Whether their preference is digital or hard copy, we have you covered. Members, please read this manual thoroughly, getting yourself acquainted with the resources made available to you as members. If you, as a member, have a question or concern on any program, project, contest, etc. in this manual, please follow the proper chain of command recommended by GFWC:

1. Member should contact the MFWC State Chairman over that program or area.
2. If that State Chairman does not know the answer, she will contact the GFWC Chairman over that program or area and get back to you with the answer.
3. Only **IF** the State Chairman does not get back with you after a reasonable amount of time has passed, contact MFWC Vice President, Becky Wright who will follow up with State Chairman on your behalf first and if no response, will contact the GFWC Chairman.
4. Only **IF** the GFWC Chairman does not get back with the State Chairman or MFWC Vice President during a reasonable amount of time, let your MFWC State President, Darlene C. Adams know and she will take it up with GFWC Vice President, Marion St. Clair. Someone will be contacting the club member who had the original question with the answer they needed.
5. Members should always **contact the volunteer first**, not the paid staff.

The following are a few of the goals I have set for this 2014-2016 Administration because we should always move forward, focusing on areas that need our attention. They are:

1. **Fund Development** - I would like each member to support the newly formed Fund Development Committee. This committee will develop a strategic plan for raising funds to cover our MFWC budget. This committee will have a fundraiser once a year and shall request each member to purchase at least one item to keep or sell. This committee will also encourage members to sign up and shop at Kroger's. Friends and family may also join on our behalf. If your club is partnering in schools, churches, recreation centers, nursing homes, arboretums, etc. "*Bringing Hope – Changing Lives*" why not ask them to promote Kroger's by signing up on behalf of MFWC. The more people we have signed up to shop there, the more free money we will receive to cover the budget. This frees up more money for the club to use in their communities. It's a win-win for everyone!
2. **Leadership** - The next goal is to equip our members to grow into leadership roles in their clubs, districts and on the state level. We will do this by:
 - a) Creating pre-recorded WEBINARS and post on the website for members to view. You can show this at your meetings or have your members view at the convenience of their homes.
 - b) We have two chairmen ready to help you with your Leadership needs.
 - For training clubs to identify and raise up leaders, guidelines and resources are available in this manual. See Sandra Pope, Leadership Chairman who will oversee this area of reporting and will chose the Club Winner for the Creativity Award.
 - We will also offer a LEADS workshop, opened to all members, for a full day, prior to the start of Convention. To join the LEADS Workshop, see Debbie Benoit, LEADS Chairman, and find out what kind of leader you are.

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- Also, each club should nominate one person from their club as the “LEADS Candidate. At the 2015 State Convention all LEAD Candidates will be recognized and then runner-up and winner both announced. Winner will represent Mississippi at the GFWC LEADS Seminar held at their annual convention. If for some reason the winner cannot attend, the runner-up will go in her place. See Debbie Benoit for more information.
3. **Communication** – The next goal is to attempt to visit every club in our state within these next two years. Through this effort, we will build relationships, share knowledge and encourage leadership.
 4. **Registration** – With our society becoming more adapted to online purchasing, the next goal would be to look into the possibility of offering an option to pay registration and meals for MFWC meetings and District/State Conventions online. Many other nonprofits are moving in this direction and our own GFWC offers convenient online payment. We will see if this is feasible and cost effective for our organization.

In closing, remember, in a world that says: “Give up!”

HOPE whispers, “Let’s try one more time.”

My dear, sweet friends – Let us try one more time:

“Bringing Hope – Changing Lives.”

I look forward to visiting with you soon.

In federation service,

Darlene

Darlene C. Adams

GFWC-MFWC President

2014-2016

Bringing Hope – Changing Lives