



# GFWC SOUTHERN REGION

Joyce Johnston  
2022-2024 President



July 17, 2023

Dear GFWC Southern Region Members:

As the hosts for our 2023 Annual Meeting, our Mississippi ladies have been busy working on the plans to make it a memorable conference. Our meeting is October 26-29 at the IP Hotel in Biloxi, and the theme for the weekend is “The Magic of Mississippi.” During the weekend you will get to learn some of the history of the area, and you can sample some of the local talent that Mississippi has to offer.

Our very special guests will be our 2022-2024 GFWC International President, Deb Strahanoski, and GFWC President-elect, Suellen Brazil., and they will shine their light for GFWC and update us on happenings in our wonderful organization. We’ll also have greetings from the GFWC Officers within our Region.

The conference agenda is filled with presentations led by our GFWC and Region Chairmen and Committee members. Topics to be covered include our Community Service Programs, Legislation/Public Policy, Membership, Communications/Public Relations, Fundraising, and Leadership, including our 2023 LEADS graduates. Also included are the Junior Special Program and our Signature Project: Domestic Violence and Prevention. State Presidents and Directors of Junior Clubs will share a “brag time” with us, and the Juniors will help us to celebrate Dr. Seuss.

Thursday evening the Board of Directors will meet and dine together off-site at Patio 44 Restaurant. Then on Friday we will have an historical tour of downtown Biloxi via trolley. This includes Biloxi’s lighthouse. After that we will board a bus to the Gulfport Woman’s Club where the Gulfport ladies will host a tasty tea/lunch for us. Seating is limited to 50, but there are many other options to fill your day, including museums and shopping at Biloxi and Ocean Springs. Our hotel is offering special spa packages so make sure you view those offerings and register in advance. And, of course, you may want to try your luck at the casino located on the first floor of the IP Hotel.

Friday night is State Night, and our Mississippi ladies have planned a fun packed evening for us with a special children’s author speaker and musical entertainment. Mississippi’s special project for this administration is supporting libraries and literacy. Several of their libraries were badly damaged during the storms and tornadoes that recently plagued Mississippi. Please help us to support this project by bringing new and/or gently used children’s books to be donated to school libraries.

Saturday is our business session and in addition to all the great workshop presentations we will have another author who will speak about friendships. We are honored to have Suellen Brazil speak at our Saturday luncheon, and Deb Strahanoski will be sharing her ideas with us at the Saturday dinner. Sunday morning, we will receive the invitation to the 2024 Southern Region Annual Meeting in South Carolina.

You will have several shopping opportunities, as we will have vendors and our state and GFWC tables. Everyone loves taking a chance on baskets, so we are asking each state (and anyone else who wants to) to donate a basket or purse for an opportunity drawing.

Mode of Dress for this conference is:

- Tours: Tropical Casual (closed toe shoes must be worn if you are climbing to the top of the lighthouse)
- Meetings: Tropical Business Casual
- Friday Evening: Business Casual in Black and White (to represent the pages of a book)
- Saturday Evening: Tropical Business Casual
- Junior Fun Night: Dr. Seuss Theme

PLEASE SHARE THIS CALL WITH YOUR MEMBERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO  
ATTEND

See you soon!

*Joyce Johnston*

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**Please Note:** For electronic submissions of the registration packet work properly, you must open registration packet in Adobe Acrobat Reader or Pro. You can download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader using this [link](#). You do not need to install the More add-ons for Adobe Acrobat Reader to work properly.

Please keep a copy of your registration for your records.



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

## 2023 Region Conference GFWC Presentations

What's in store for you while attending your region's conference? GFWC Chairmen and Committee members will provide immersive presentations in the following areas.

### Signature Program: Advocating for Victims ~ Education for All



This presentation will share ways GFWC members can advocate and educate in their communities. We will highlight the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship application procedures and expand on effective advocacy strategies, including raising awareness, providing safe spaces for survivors to share their stories, lobbying for policy changes, and promoting education on consent and healthy relationships.

### Juniors' Special Program: ABC Project Ideas with Affiliate Organizations



Utilizing the tools from GFWC Affiliate Organizations is the easiest way to advocate for children. We will give you the ABCs to project ideas and community awareness.

### Get a CLUE with Done-in-a-Day Projects



Are you looking for clues to uncover the secrets to done-in-a-day projects to bring micro-volunteers and potential members to your community projects? Join Mrs. Peacock, Colonel Mustard, Ms. Scarlet, and all the CLUE characters when the investigation into easy hands-on projects begins. If you are looking for clues, this one is for you.

### And there's more...

### Building Leadership Capacity through Club Projects Organizations



Hear innovative ideas for club projects that will build leadership skills to increase members' confidence and encourage acceptance of new leadership roles.

### Membership and Micro-Volunteers

How do GFWC clubs recruit, engage, and manage prospects with limited time? Micro-volunteering may be the solution your club is looking for! Micro-volunteering is an approach to community action that allows short-term, low-commitment opportunities to get involved with your club programs, events, and fundraisers to create value for their time and engage more prospects of future dedicated members.

### Rebranding, why we need each club woman to lead the way.

Engage yourself in rebranding and understand why each club woman needs to get GFWC's identity known in local communities. Learn simple tweaks in communication efforts that make a difference.



### "And the Survey Says...Advocacy!"

Over 700 clubwomen were surveyed; the top answers will be revealed during this gameshow fun.



### Recipe for a Successful Fundraiser

Don't think you're ready to tackle a fundraising event? This simple recipe will be a crowd-pleasing treat—an easy recipe for success.

