

Women's History and Resource Center

Since the Federation's founding in 1890, GFWC members have understood the historic significance of the organization's mission to improve communities through volunteer service. The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 1984. The WHRC was designed to preserve and better document GFWC history and members' work on club, state, national, and international levels, and to promote and document volunteerism.

The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Guide encourages every club to investigate and document its own history, and learn about GFWC's past. Use the guide located in the 2026-2028 club manual available online at GFWC.org (pages 235-231) to explore and share GFWC's amazing history while documenting your own!

Observe Women's History Month in March by collaborating with your local library, museum, school, and/or other civic organizations to sponsor an event. Consider one that honors a community leader or club past and/or present members who exhibit outstanding service and exemplify the qualities set forth in Mary Stewart's Collect for Clubwomen. Utilize print and social media throughout the month to promote your project.

WHRC funds are used to purchase preservation supplies, collections management technology, and books/reference materials for the WHRC research library, and to support preservation work and community outreach efforts. You may purchase items from the Wishlist on Amazon or at local book retailers or support the restoration and preservation of GFWC artifacts through the GFWC Annual Giving Program.

- Work with local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history; offer to serve as judges for local History Day competitions.
- Honor GFWC leaders including past or present officers, chairmen, or club presidents by creating a profile of each leader, including their photograph, to preserve in your respective archives.
- Write your club history and update it annually or biannually (once an administration) by recording significant projects, achievements, and community impact. Don't forget to submit your club history to the WHRC Club History collection. Download a free copy of "A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History" from the Digital Library on the Member Portal.
- Create a brief "Club History Bullet" to submit with newspaper articles to educate the community about your club and its impact.
- Celebrate significant club anniversaries with a display at your local library or other public space.
- Invite members to take turns each month giving a report on a well-known woman in history or one currently making history.
- Support GFWC's partnership with the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation's efforts to build a monument on the Mall in Washington, D.C. dedicated to prominent women in American history, www.womensmonument.org.
- Encourage members to register U.S. service women on the Military Women's Memorial National Register.
- Encourage members in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country.

Report! Report! Report!