



Sparkle & Shine

Summer 2023

Volume XIII Issue I



Libraries are sacred time
machines where knowledge
flows and magic is eternal.

Mari Barnes



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.

GFWC-MFWC 2022-2024

Elected Officers

Theresa Buntyn
President
GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive
Club
Central District

Meri F. Newell
Vice President and Dean of Chairmen
Cosmopolitan Club
Southern District

Carolyn Tedford
President-elect
Poplarville Woman's Club
Southern District

Susan Shurden
Secretary
GFWC Ackerman Twentieth Century Club
Northern District

Becky W. Watkins
Treasurer
Quitman Woman's Club
Central District



"Getting Back To Our GFWC Roots"
by promoting public libraries, education and literacy!

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The GFWC-MFWC Newsletter "Sparkle and Shine" is published by the GFWC-MFWC. All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged. Mail articles and/or photographs to Lisa A. Harris, 822 SCR 115 S, Raleigh, MS 39153 or email to lisaharris@outlook.com. Questions or comments, contact Lisa at (601) 940-1519.

Getting Back to Our Roots

"A History of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc."

Administration of Mrs. B. M. (Willie Beckett) Howorth

1942-1944



- 📖 Twentieth-third President of the MFWC from West Point, MS.
- 📖 The theme of her administration was "Consecration to Winning the War and the Peace."

Highlights of this Administration

- Mrs. Howorth's administration occurred during the worst of the War Years. Almost all work and programs during this time were war related.
- Highlights from the forty fifth annual convention of the MFWC held in Meridian in November 1943 with Mrs. H. H. Howorth presiding.
 - ◆ Mrs. Howorth presented five projects of the GFWC that had been presented at the Board meeting held at Swampscott, Massachusetts. They were
 - Nursing Project which emphasized scholarship for nurses. The U. S. Army needed 60,000 trained nurses.
 - The "Buy a Bomber" campaign appealed to each State Federation to buy and sell enough bonds to pay for a heavy bomber which cost \$300,000. Each federated club woman was as to purchase at least one hundred dollars worth of bonds. The MFWC Committee reported that the "Buy a Bomber" program had been a tremendous success. THE MFWC had raised \$711, 987.50, enough to purchase two bombers. This was an amazing feat accomplished by the MFWC.
 - The third request was to urge club women to help recruit women for the WACS, a women's branch of the armed services.
 - Preparing for peace was the fourth program that the GFWC suggested.
 - Finally, the concept of women as molder of public opinion was espoused.
 - ◆ Some interesting resolutions were passed at this convention. Among those adopted were: calling for removal of Federal tax on oleomargarine; petitioning President Roosevelt to use his influence to place a woman on the Post War Peace Conference to assist in formulating plans for a just and lasting peace, and finally, asking the Mississippi Legislature to create legislation requiring that flour and cornmeal sold in Mississippi be enriched.
- Highlights from the forty sixth annual convention of the MFWC which was held in Jackson, MS in October 21 - November 2, 1944.
 - ◆ This convention passed a lengthy list of resolutions. Support was expressed for music in the schools and for programs to combat illiteracy, support health care programs before the Mississippi Legislature, rehabilitation programs for Veterans, psychiatric training, jury service for women, and Social Security. Finally, one resolution passed seems particularly timely to modern Mississippi clubwomen. This resolution encouraged the endorsement by the Federation of the "Equal Rights Amendment" to the United State Constitution. Interestingly, this amendment has still not been ratified at the time of publishing of this book.
- More information on Mrs. B. M. Howorth's administration can be found on pages 86-93 in the chapter titled The World War II Years.

Source: "A History of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs 1898-1998" by Tommye Hogue Rosenbaum, 1998, Commemorating The Centennial of the Mississippi Federation. Published by the GFWC Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., 2407 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216. Copyright 1998 by Tommye Hogue Rosenbaum for the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, ISBN: 0-935515-32-1.

A Message From Theresa Buntyn

Greeting Ladies,

It is hard to believe that it has been over a year since I was installed as your 63rd State President. Our months together have brought me excitement, challenges, and everlasting memories. I cherish the pictures, cards, donations, and supporting documents shared with me and appreciate your support of my President's Special Project. Our International President challenged our states to sparkle.



The last few months our MFWC members have caught the sparkle and shined brightly in our communities, showing support of our libraries and education. I have enjoyed attending your clubs' meetings, participating in events, and sharing Living the Volunteer Spirit with you. I thank all of you who served in so many capacities in making our conventions and meetings successful. We still have nine months to go, and I know your continued support will "Make A Difference."

I represented GFWC Mississippi at the GFWC International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I, along with six other members, had a fun time visiting with members from other States and learned how to ensure our Federation will continue growing in membership and how to create a successful strategic plan.

Thank you, Meri Newell, for presenting our awards at Summer Institute, and congratulations to all the winners. I hope everyone enjoyed our summer institute. It was my pleasure to lead the meeting and was inspired by the sparkling of the educational sessions and our service projects for The Mississippi Library Commission.

I have now finalized my plans to represent MFWC at the September GFWC Board of Directors meeting in Denver, Colorado. Plans are almost finished for our GFWC Southern Region Conference, which MFWC will be hosting in Biloxi, Mississippi. Our own Dr. Tammie McCoy will be installed as the GFWC Southern Region Vice president during this convention. I thank Dr. Carolyn Tedford and Judy T. Martin for their outstanding leadership in chairing this event. They have spent countless hours planning a fantastic conference that you will not want to miss.

I am humbled and overwhelmed by your love and support during this exciting time, and I look forward to continuing to represent each of you as we complete this administration. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can ever assist you or your club. I appreciate each of you and encourage you to Bloom where you are planted, no matter the season.

Love in Federation,
Theresa Buntyn
GFWC-MFWC State President

MFWC Membership News

Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford, State Membership Chairman, has been working with a group of women in the Tunica area that were interested in returning to the federation. We received word this month that they had voted on rejoining the Federation, elected officers, and paid dues. So, let's welcome The Woman's Club of Tunica County to the GFWC-MFWC.

Carolyn has also been working with the Woman's Club of Aberdeen and an inquiry from a group of interested women in Magee, MS about rejoining the GFWC-MFWC.

Woman's Club of Booneville Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Submitted by Woman's Club of Booneville.

Members of the Woman's Club of Booneville are anticipating the celebration of their 100th anniversary at their October meeting. The Woman's Club of Booneville was organized October 16, 1922 when a group of women met for the purpose of organizing a literary club that could be federated. Before the end of that year, the new club became a part of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Although the thirty-six charter members organized the club as a "literary and cultural" club, after becoming federated the club became a part of the world's largest organization of volunteer women.

Throughout the years, the Woman's Club has been instrumental in the development of community resources that benefit the citizens of Booneville and Prentiss county. In 1923, representatives of the Woman's Club of Booneville met with the Prentiss County Board of Supervisors in behalf of securing a home demonstration agent for the county. The club has long been active in community beautification projects. Members were in charge of the first City Park which was located near the railroad in the area of the current Masonic building. In 1951, the club was instrumental in working with the Kiwanis Club to seek donations for purchasing land for the present City Park.

The Woman's Club has always been a sponsor and staunch supporter of the public library. The earliest library was a room upstairs over the old Bank of Booneville, a site located by a member of Woman's Club at that time. In 1947, the Woman's Club secured a new location for the library in the American Legion building. The rent for that building was included in the club budget. Later the library moved uptown on West Church Street. The George E. Allen Library was completed in the summer of 1976. The Woman's Club assisted as hostesses at the October 23, 1976 dedication of the library. Throughout the years, members of the Woman's Club of Booneville have periodically served on both the Regional and Local Library Board. The Woman's Club sponsored the first summer reading program in 1952 and has continued to offer its help each summer to present. In 1973, upon special request by the Mississippi

GFWC Advance Plan - Membership

Educational Television Authority, the Woman's Club served as hostesses to the Sesame Street cast when they performed at the official opening of Booneville ETV, Channel 12.

The Woman's Club of Booneville develops its programs by the departments of the General Federation of Women's Clubs/ Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs. The departments are Art and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, and Health and Wellness. A few of the club's current projects include providing monetary support for prizes at the Hospitality Arts Festival, providing art supplies for the Booneville schools, supporting our veterans, helping the Main Street Association put out seasonal decorations around the town, continuing our support of the library, and participating in the community clean-up days. While the club has enjoyed reflecting on the activities of its one hundred year history, the Woman's Club of Booneville now looks forward to continuing their participation, support, and promotion of our hometown, the city of hospitality.



Cosmopolitan Club Celebrates 90th Anniversary

By [Trey Howard](#), Published: Apr. 2, 2023 at 10:51 PM CDT

PETAL, Miss. (WDAM) - A Pine Belt organization celebrated its 90th anniversary Sunday. Dozens of people joined the Cosmopolitan Club of Petal as they were honored for nine decades of service to the community.

The group began in 1933 with 14 women, and Libby Everett, the club's president, said the organization continues its mission of work in education, outreach and engagement throughout the Pine Belt.

"We stay in contact with City Hall; with the aldermen and the mayor, because we find areas that we can be helpful in; ways that we can volunteer our time and money," said Everett. "So, we appreciate them as well and how helpful they are to us."

The group was recognized by the Mississippi Federation of Women's Club and named the southern district's club of the year.

Use this [link](#) to view the actual footage as show on WDAM 7, Hattiesburg, MS.



Club President Libby D. Everett

Outstanding Achievement Awards for 2022 Club Year

Each year at the GFWC-MFWC Annual State Convention, two awards are given to two very special dedicated volunteers for their outstanding work in the previous club year. These awards are the GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year Award and the GFWC-MFWC Juniorette of the Year (JOY) Award. During the first year of each administration, one special award is given to a clubwoman who has dedicated years of volunteering in her community, this award is the GFWC Jennie Award. Keep reading to find out about how to apply for these awards and who received the awards for the 2022 club year.

GFWC JENNIE AWARD

The GFWC Jennie Award is *the only national honor* bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

*THE GFWC JENNIE
AWARD HONORS ONE
CLUBWOMAN FROM
EACH GFWC REGION
FOR OUTSTANDING
COMMITMENT TO
CLUB, COMMUNITY,
AND FAMILY.*

What does it take to be a Jennie Award candidate? Nominations are evaluated equally on the following criteria.

- **COMMITMENT TO FAMILY.** Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising her grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The definition of a family member may include persons who are older or younger than the nominee. It may include immediate as well as extended family members. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the wellbeing, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an on-going basis, separate and apart, from club and community work.
- **COMMITMENT TO GFWC.** The nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement, not only in terms of her club's volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her effort to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteerism. She should be kind, loyal, and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment should be continuous, rather than a one-time occurrence.
- **COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY.** Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g., schools, hospitals, an elected/ appointed position, scouts, etc.) as well as through the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteer work.

GFWC Advance Plans - Leadership

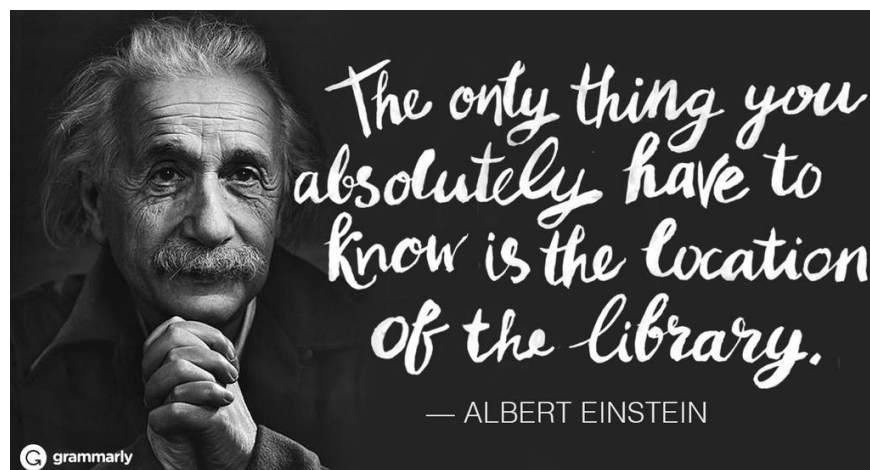
AWARD RULES

Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria for this award.

- The nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Her tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive, not concurrent.
- GFWC Executive Officers (past or present) are not eligible for nomination.
- Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- Clubs must complete and submit the official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form along with a separate letter of introduction explaining the reason for the nomination with a maximum 500-word written narrative.
- Narratives should include descriptions of the nominee's:
 - Commitment to her nuclear or extended family
 - Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional
 - Club activities
- Clubs must submit no more than 25 pages (printed single-sided) of supportive materials, including:
 - The title-page nomination form and letter of introduction
 - Digital color photograph of nominee *Note: If the photo does not meet the required specifications, it will not be used.*
 - Clips of two-three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name).
 - Letter of endorsement from club president
 - Letter of endorsement from a representative of another organization

OTHER INFORMATION

- Nomination forms and supporting materials, including photographs, will not be returned.
- All 16 Region Finalists will be featured in the March/April 2024 issue of the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine.
- In March/April 2024, the GFWC Selection Committee will meet to determine the final 8 Region Finalists from 1 nominee from each state.
- ALL eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded roundtrip transportation to attend the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, IL. A special remembrance and certificate will be presented to the honorees by the GFWC International President and GFWC Jennie Award Chairman.



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GFWC-MFWC Jennie Award Winner

Our GFWC-MFWC Mississippi Jennie Award winner for this administration is Jeannie Pittman, who was nominated by her club, the GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club or more commonly known as the “Morning Club”. I along with our Jennie Award Chairman, Melba Watkins, want to tell you about our Mississippi Jennie Award winner.



Jeannie J. Pittman

Many of our members have known Jeannie Pittman for most of their adult lives. MFWC members have enjoyed sharing many events, reporting days, conferences, and conventions with Jeannie. Jeannie has remained an active club member, along with so many other areas of service she has enjoyed. She has participated in church activities, sports events, PTO committee meetings, United Methodist Women events and volunteered for many organizations including Mississippi State Hospital Serendipity Board, proctoring at local schools, supported libraries, ushered at International and Mississippi ballet, Mississippi orchestra just to mention a few.

Jeannie raised children, enjoyed her career, and jumped into retirement with both feet. Her retirement has been spent helping others, remembering birthdays, sharing great foods, looking in on the sick and just being a friend to anyone and everyone who needs a friendly ear. One doesn't need to ask for assistance due to the fact she anticipates it. Thankfully, many club members and friends have received her kindness.

It is with our deepest honor and pleasure that we introduce Jeannie Johns Pittman of the GFWC-MFWC Florentine Club of Florence, MS, as the Jennie Award winner for Mississippi. Jennie Pittman will be recognized during our 2023 GFWC Southern Region Annual Conference as our state nominee for this prestigious GFWC Jennie Award.

Thank you, Jennie, for your dedication to our GFWC Mississippi Federation.

GFWC-MFWC CLUBWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The “Clubwoman of the Year” Award is the highest honor presented annually at the District and State levels to an outstanding GFWC-MFWC member. The award is given on the District and State levels to the Clubwoman who, in the opinion of the judges, has given of herself and truly exemplifies the Mississippi Federation Clubwoman. The nominee should be a club member who has served her club and her community through her club. Her club and her community must be better because she is an active volunteer.

Nomination materials are sent to the current GFWC-MFWC President who will checked to see if they have fulfilled all requirements. Upon verifying that the application meets all requirements it is forwarded to three GFWC judges from other states. The State winner will be chosen from among the District winners. Please make every effort to send in a nomination from your club!

How do you or someone from your club apply for this award. Check out our website at https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Contest_Clubwoman.html. Be sure to follow all instructions. Applications and all supporting documents must be postmarked by February 10th. If the if the postmark deadline for an application/form falls on a Sunday, the application/form MUST be postmarked by the prior Saturday.

GFWC Advance Plans - Leadership

GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year Award Winner

Ada McGrevey of GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club (DWPC) was awarded the 2022 Clubwoman of the Year Award at our 126th Annual State Convention in Tupelo, MS on Saturday, April 21, 2023.

Ada has been a member of the DWPC since 1998 and her fellow clubwoman selected Ada as their 2022 Clubwoman of the Year and with a humble heart, she accepted. The DWPC has been a steadfast component of Ada's life since she was young and would watch her mother getting ready for a "club meeting". As an adult, she was thrilled to serve alongside her mom as a full member and helped her remain active until her passing in 2019. The friendship and work relationship developed across Mississippi through DWPC are priceless to Ada.

Ada has served her club, district, and state exemplifying how she makes difference in her club. Listed below are just a few of her accomplishments.

As a member of the DWPC, she has served as the Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman, Christmas Parade Committee Chairman, Treat Street Chairman, Woman History and Resource Center Chairman, Public Relations Chairman, Club Reporter, International Outreach Community Service Program Chairman and Education Community Service Program Chairman.

On the District level, Ada has served as the Recording Secretary, Vice President, President and is currently serving as Parliamentarian of the Central District.

On the State level, Ada has served on the Long-Range Planning Committee and as Headquarters Committee Chairman.

From her pastor, *"Though we have focused on the many things Ada does, we would be remiss if we didn't share a little about who Ada is. Ada is tapped to serve in all these ways because she is a team-player who is easy to get along with and fun to work beside. We can trust that Ada will follow through with whatever she's committed to and that she will bring with herself in service to others. She is a very capable leader, able to give instruction and delegate tasks, but she's also a generous follower, happy to do what's asked of her or listen to the instruction of others."*

In conclusion, from her pastor description of Ada not only shows her passion for serving her church but Ada serves her community and is an example of what a Clubwoman should be.

Ada McGrevey, 2022 GFWC-MFWC Clubwoman of the Year Award, received her certificate at the 2022 Annual State Convention in Tupelo, MS.



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GFWC-MFWC “JUNIORETTE OF THE YEAR (JOY)” AWARD

The Juniorette of the Year Award is the highest honor presented annually at the State level to an outstanding GFWC-MFWC Juniorette Clubwoman. The award is given at State level to the Juniorette Clubwoman who, in the opinion of the judges, has given of herself and truly exemplifies the Mississippi Federation Clubwoman. The nominee should be a club member who has served her club and her community through her club. Her club and her community must be better because she is an active volunteer.

As with the Clubwoman of the Year Award, nomination materials are sent to the current GFWC-MFWC President who will check to see if they have fulfilled all requirements. Upon verifying that the application meets all requirements it is forwarded to three GFWC judges from other states.

How does a Juniorette apply for this award. Check out our website at https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Contest_Juniorette_Clubwoman.html. Be sure to follow all instructions. Applications and all supporting documents must be postmarked by February 10th. If the postmark deadline for an application/form falls on a Sunday, the application/form MUST be postmarked by the prior Saturday.

For the 2022 club year, there were no entries in the Juniorette of the Year Award category. Please make every effort to send in a nomination from your club!

GFWC LEADS AND MFWC LEADS

The GFWC Leadership Education and Development (LEADS) Seminar program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. It is a full day of activities and includes breakfast and lunch.

So, you want to be a LEADS candidate and represent GFWC-MFWC at the GFWC Convention. First, it is highly recommended that you meet the following criteria.

- Demonstrate leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman.
- Exhibits a commitment to the Federation.
- Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs and projects in which she is or has been involved.
- Demonstrates leadership characteristics, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility.
- Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC.
- Agrees to share information gained from participation in LEADS with others in the State Federation.
- Understands and accepts potential expenses involved in participation.
- Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level (this criterion is highly recommended, but not required, in order to encourage potential leaders at the club level to apply).
- Has not attended a previous LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once.
- Agrees to make every effort to attend the Fall GFWC Region Conference to report on their LEADS experience.

GFWC Advance Plans - Leadership

- Must be a member of a per capita dues paying club, or a delegate of an International Affiliate as noted in the Expenses section below.

So, you have determined that you meet the above criteria, and you still want to be a LEADS candidate, so what do you do now? You go to our website at [https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC Awards Contests.html](https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_Awards_Contests.html) and select the link for the MFWC MS LEADS application. Complete the application, get two letters of support from active GFWC-MFWC Clubmembers, include a “head shot” photo and mail all items to the GFWC-MFWC LEADS Chairman and to GFWC-MFWC President.

Applications and all supporting documents must be postmarked by February 10th. If the if the postmark deadline for an application/form falls on a Sunday, the application/form MUST be postmarked by the prior Saturday.

For the 2022 club year, our GFWC delegate was Michelle Sutton. Michelle currently serves as the GFWC-MFWC Juniorette Director.

GFWC-MFWC LEADS Delegate to GFWC

A Fabulous Journey

By Michelle Sutton

A few short months ago, I read an email that said it was time for local MFWC clubs to submit their candidates for the Mississippi LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar) program. It was not the first time I had seen and heard about this program, but this year, I took it a step further and contacted my local club president to express my interest. Since then, I have been on a fabulous journey from the first MFWC LEADS workshop at Winter Board to my first GFWC International Convention in June. What a journey!

Before the convention began, a plethora of state LEADS candidates participated in a ZOOM meeting (or a recording of it) where we learned about the levels of leadership within GFWC and what responsibilities fall within each. We were also able to introduce ourselves and get to know each other, some found convention roommates, through a Facebook group page devoted to the 2023 LEADS candidates. Anticipation for the convention was rising.

Finally . . . it was time for the 2023 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The day before the official start of the convention, 41 LEADS state representatives gathered for a full day of learning more about the GFWC organization, and also more about ourselves. The first session was “Developing Your Why.” My take-away quote from this session is “People don’t buy what you do, they buy why you do it.” How many times have we been asked why? “Why do we devote so much time to our volunteer work?”; “Why do we do our volunteer work through _____ (insert your local club’s name here)?” I challenge each of us to think about what those answers are and always be ready to inform others about why we give back to our communities, state, nation, and world through the part we play in GFWC at any level.

(Continued on page 14)

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(Continued from page 13)

Sessions continued throughout the day including time management, taking care of one's health and well-being, and listening skills. We also learned more about resolutions and parliamentary procedures, which proved rewarding as the convention progressed. Overall, the day was a smooth transition from one informative session to another with chances to meet new people from all over the United States.

The LEADS Welcome packet included a paragraph that says, "Your state has given you a high honor in sending you to GFWC Convention." I cannot thank my fellow club members and the MFWC Executive Board enough for allowing me this opportunity and helping make this a remarkable, memorable experience. I have learned so much and have met so many amazing women who have a common human heart full of love for others. I am blessed.



#1—Michelle received GFWC LEADS pin from GFWC Treasurer Becky C. Wright, #2—GFWC LEADS Delegates, and #3—GFWC President Deb Strahanoski, MFWC President Theresa Buntyn, LEADS Delegate Michelle Sutton and GFWC Junior Clubs Director Katie Moydell.

#4—Michelle Sutton of Pontotoc Woman's Club received the GFWC-MFWC LEADS Award at the 2022 State Convention held in Tupelo, MS. Pictured left to right is Michelle Sutton, Director of Juniores, Theresa Buntyn, GFWC-MFWC President and Meri F. Newell, GFWC-MFWC LEADS Chairman and GFWC-MFWC Vice President.



GFWC Advance Plans - Leadership

Awards Won at the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention

Congratulations to all the following award winners who were recognized at the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky!

- ♦ Civic Engagement and Outreach Honorable Mention awarded to the Poplarville Woman's Club
- ♦ Epsilon Sigma Omicron for GFWC Mississippi, Laura Ann Trigg, GFWC-MFWC Chairman
- ♦ Communications and Public Relations for GFWC Mississippi, Becky C. Wright, GFWC-MFWC Chairman
- ♦ Leadership, Honorable Mention to GFWC Juniorette Diamonds, Darlene C. Adams and Debbie Benoit, Co-Advisors
- ♦ Membership to GFWC Mississippi, Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford, Chairman
- ♦ Membership Juniorette Participation Award to
 - GFWC Ackerman Junioresses
 - Eupora Junioresses
 - Junioresses Diamonds
 - Dixie Daisy Junioresses
 - Pontotoc Junioresses
- ♦ Linda Guraedy, GFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive Club won Third Place in Photography Contest – Our World Up Close. See picture to the right.
- ♦ Website Contest to GFWC Mississippi, Lisa A. Harris, Webmaster.

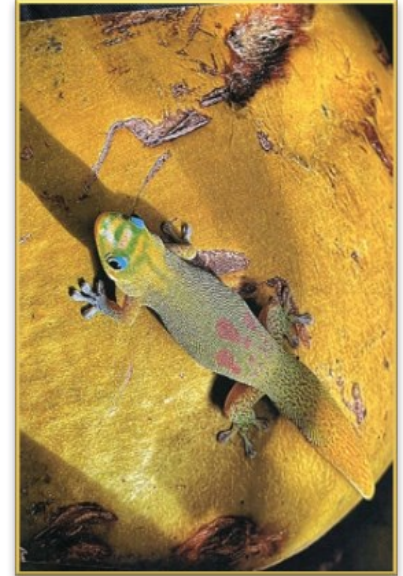


Photo submitted by Linda Guraedy

Blooming Where We Are Planted with the Mississippi Library Commission

By Becky C. Wright, Commissioner

Didn't BINGO at Summer Institute?

You are always a winner when cultivating a relationship with the Mississippi Library Commission!

- Be a social butterfly! Follow MLC on Instagram and like MLC on Facebook.
- Infect your club with the bug! Use your library card to access crafting ideas free from Creative Bug!
- Nurture your bookworm by using BookMatch to find your next read!
- Grow support for the library by sharing how you use the library with your elected officials.
- Obtain a Book Club Kit in a Box from MLC through your local library and watch your club bloom.

And don't forget to check out the Literary Lawn Party at the 9th Annual Mississippi Book Festival on August 19, 2023! Hope to see you there!



Mississippi Book Festival

Taken from Mississippi Book Festival website at <https://msbookfestival.com>.



A Literary Lawn Party. Each August, the Mississippi Book Festival unites readers and authors in an exhilarating celebration of books. The Capitol's stately rooms and nearby Galloway Church turn into venues for distinguished panelists, the streets in-between transform into a bustling marketplace for booksellers, and the grounds and Capitol Rotunda become a hub of lively exchange. **FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**, the festival brings the written word to fun, festive life with authors, panel discussions, book signings, family-friendly activities, food trucks, live music, and more!

Hundreds of contemporary authors – national, regional, and local – connect directly with fans and new readers at the festival each year. Official Panelists are invited to contribute to in-depth discussions and sign books, while Authors Alley hosts dozens of self-published authors selling their work. Use this [link](#) to find out who's coming this year!

With so much to choose from at the Mississippi Book Festival, we strive to help you maximize your experience through good planning, great amenities, and convenient access. Indoors, we have air-conditioned panel discussion venues, loads of activities to select from, and ample time between. At the center of outdoor attractions on the shaded south lawn of the Capitol, you'll find the Book Signing tent, right across from Booksellers Row. There will also be lots of family-friendly activities, dining close by, and the Community Lawn filled with individual community organization tents. Surrounding streets will turn into a bustling marketplace of book sellers and food vendors.

MAXIMIZE YOUR DAY

To enjoy your day at the festival in and around the State Capitol building, plan ahead:

- ◇ study the lineup of scheduled activities, panels, and signings; the first discussion panels of the day begin at 9:30 a.m. with 15-minute breaks between panels; first book signings begin at 11:00 a.m.
- ◇ check out the festival site map to identify venue and activity locations.
- ◇ prioritize your interests; arrive early as smaller venues tend to fill up quickly (first come, first served) and rooms are cleared after each panel in preparation for the next panel.
- ◇ purchase books at the bookseller tents and see the book signings schedule to find your favorite

GFWC Community Service Program - Education and Libraries

author's signing time.

- ◇ stay hydrated, bottled water is available at the merchandise tent in the center of the festival and at some food trucks.
- ◇ See [FESTIVAL MAP](#).

Will you be attending this year's 9th annual book festival? If so, take pictures and send them to me as you are *Getting Back to Our Roots!*

GFWC Community Service Program - Civic Engagement and Outreach

Tornado Relief Efforts

By Theresa Buntyn, GFWC-MFWC President

As your State President of GFWC Mississippi, I am so grateful for your resilience, volunteering and donations as deadly tornadoes ripped through our state in March. Communities were devastated and lives lost, during this catastrophic event.

Many of our members were quick to act and provide volunteer efforts, donations and acts of service. MFWC clubs across our state as well as other GFWC clubs and organizations collected \$5000. These donations were provided to the Eight Days of Hope.



A unknown Eight Days of Hope volunteer cleaning up after a natural disaster.

Use this [link](#) for more information on Eight Days of Hope. Eight Days of Hope serves as the hands and feet of Christ – providing light in the face of darkness, restoration in the face of destruction. They are a national organization that responds to disasters across the country, helping to rebuild homes, communities, and lives.



In a culture that is increasingly privatized, libraries are among the last free spaces we have left. Public libraries are worth fighting for.

Robert Dawson

A LIBRARY IS
NOT A LUXURY
BUT ONE OF THE
NECESSITIES OF
LIFE.

HENRY WARD BEECHER

GFWC-MFWC President's Special Project

President's Special Project (PSP) Service Projects

How many of the PSP Service Projects have you completed for this administration? What you don't have a copy of the list, or you did know about the Service Projects. Well, listed below are the remaining projects for this administration.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Organize literacy events to "get your school reading." Organize book-themed events, such as a book walk, book fair, book bingo, book drive or swap, book reading challenge, a book club of "reading buddies," or a book report contest on "My Favorite Book." Donate or solicit prizes for awards.



DECEMBER 2023

Members read a Christmas Story to a group of children from an elementary school, daycare, etc. or club provides a Christmas stem activity during December. Use this link for more information: <https://www.steamsational.com/christmas-science-experiments/>.

MARCH 2024

Organize a Read Across America event in March during National Reading Month. Consult the Read Across America website (<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america>) for suggested books, event ideas, and promotional materials for your local library or schools.

APRIL 2024

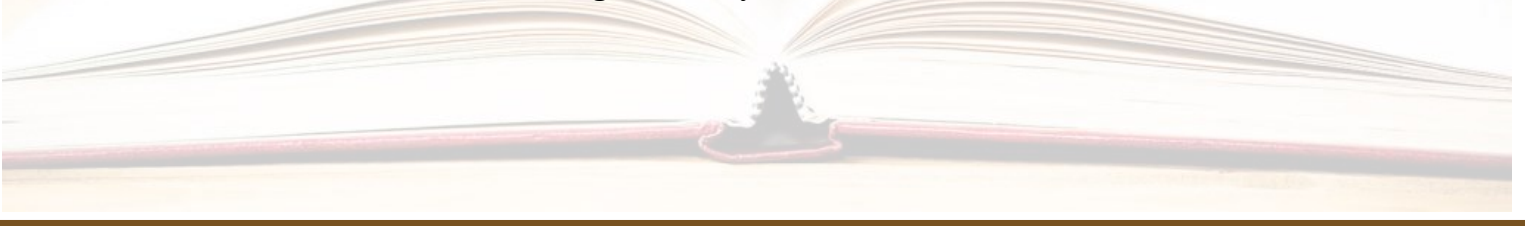
Convention Final service project to be determined.

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita paying GFWC federated club members. Over 60 years ago, the ESO program became a permanent part of the GFWC Education Department. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. Many GFWC clubwomen have profited from this unique self-improvement program, seen as vital by the members it directly benefits.

Members can participate in ESO as part of a reading group or on their own. The program provides membership, awards and certificates, pins, reading lists, and a framework in which to pursue continued self-improvement through reading. Many clubs combine club programming with ESO related activities, such as reading awareness and book promotion.

ESO Resources are filed under E in the digital library of the [GFWC Member Portal](#).





GFWC Southern Region Annual Conference, October 26 -29, 2023 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

By Joyce Johnston, GFWC SR President

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.

GFWC Advancement Plans - Leadership - Upcoming Meetings

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

See you soon!

Joyce Johnston

Joyce Johnston
2022-2024 SR President

Note from Editor: Visit our website at https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Official_Calls.html#GFWCcalls for SRC Official Call to Conference Letter from President Joyce Johnston, SRC Registration Form 2023 and Program Advertisements. Deadline to submit/postmark your Registration Form is September 29, 2023, and hotel reservation deadline is

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES PRIOR TO SRC 2023

Would you like to see your name in the 2023 GFWC SR Annual Conference Program Booklet or purchase a T-Shirt as part of our fundraising campaign?

Fundraising Opportunity #1 – Patron Line. Would you like to see your name in the GFWC Southern Region Conference Program Book? If so, consider purchasing a Patron Line in this year's program book. In order to be included in the Conference Program Book, donations by be postmarked/ submitted by September 15, 2023.

Fundraising Opportunity #2 – “Collect” Long Sleeve T-Shirt.

Many of you have asked about the “Collect” t-shirt (“And, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind”) in a different color. We listened and are now offering you the opportunity to order it in a PINK (for breast cancer awareness) long sleeve Bella Canvas crew neck t-shirt. Our branding, the



“Collect” Long Sleeve T-Shirt

GFWC Advancement Plans - Leadership - Upcoming Meetings

GFWC emblem, will be on the back at the top. All proceeds will help fund Southern Region Conference in October. August 31, 2023, is the postmark/submission deadline to place an order. Preorders will be available for pickup at SRC. Mailing will be available for an additional \$6.00.

The T-shirts are Bella Canvas true to size, 100% airlune combed and ring spun cotton with maximum shrinkage of 5%. T-shirts are available in Small to 1XL for \$25.00 and 2XL and 3XL for \$27.00.

See our website at https://www.gfwc-mfwc.org/GFWC_MFWC_Official_Calls.html#GFWCcalls for Fundraising Opportunity Form. If you have trouble submitting your order form, download and save the form to your computer, complete form, save form again, open your email program and attached completed order form to your email addressed to Diane Rouse at crouse99@yahoo.com.

2024 GFWC-MFWC District Convention

District Conventions have been scheduled for the following dates. Locations to be named in early 2024.

- March 2, 2024, Central District Convention to be held in Raleigh, MS. The GFWC-MFWC Raleigh Woman's Club, GFWC-MFWC Gavel Club and GFWC-MFWC Leading Ladies will be hosting. General Chairman is Judy T. Martin of the GFWC-MFWC Raleigh Woman's Club.
- March 9, 2024, Southern District Convention.
- March 23, 2024, Northern District Convention.

GFWC-MFWC 2024 Annual State Convention, April 25-27, 2024, at Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond, MS.

The one hundred twenty-sixth Annual State Convention will be held between April 25-27, 2024, at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center and Resort on the Raymond Campus of Hinds Community College.

More information will be available in early 2024. Some of the events to look forward to are the installation of the 2024-2026 Executive Board with Dr. Carolyn S. Tedford as GFWC-MFWC President, our Executive Board Dinner in the historic Raymond Lake Lodge and a very special event related to President Buntyn's PSP.

Make your plans to be there for this "Getting Back to Our Roots" Convention.

See you there in April 2024.



LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT BY GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS!



Clubwomen read in characters at libraries





Left to right: Sewing classes at the library, donating books to the library, Little Free Library and Christmas tree with book covers





Summer Reading Programs





125th Annual State Convention







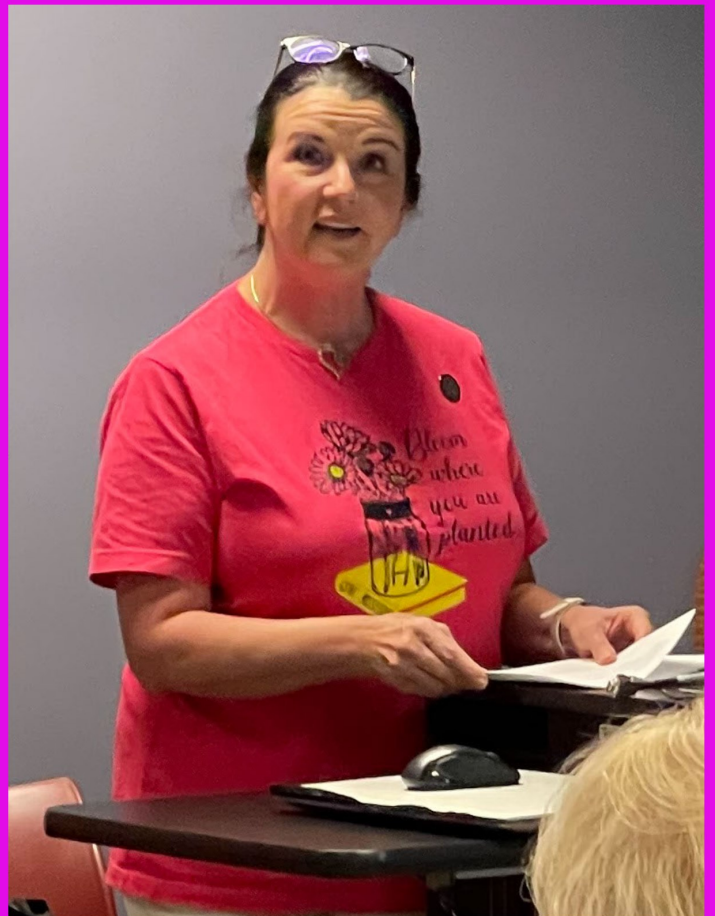
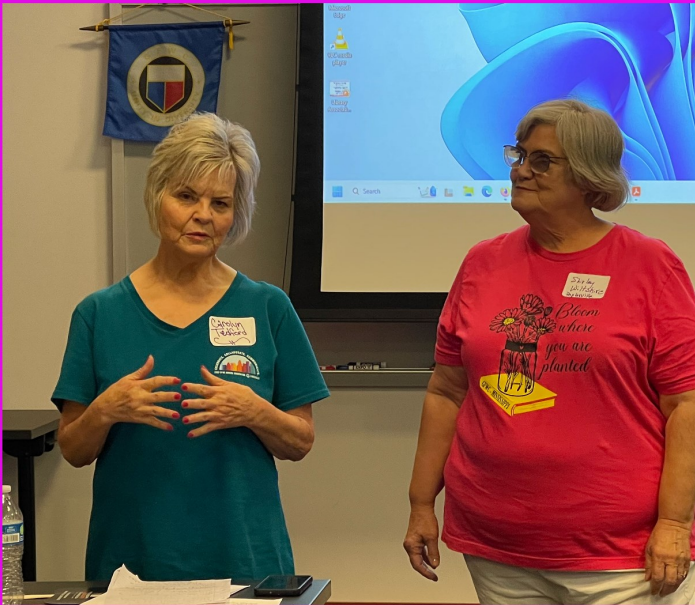




SUMMER INSTITUTE 2023









General Federation of Women's Club



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www.gfwc.org

GFWC NEWS

GFWC International Affiliate Updates

By: Cherie Sieger, GFWC International Liaison Committee Member

Were you at the GFWC Annual Convention this year? Did you get the chance to meet the GFWC International Affiliates?

There were six club members from three countries in attendance at the GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Of the six, three club members represented Brazil, two represented the country of Belize (one being a Juniorette), and one represented the country of the Philippines. Meeting them and joining them for the social that Madam President, Deb Strahanoski, held for them was extremely exciting.

This committee member had the opportunity to room with one of the clubwomen from Belize. She was so sweet, and she has the heart and drive for volunteering, just as we all do. Her name is Tricia, and she works in her community to make it a better place. During our quiet times together, we talked about her country, her culture, and how GFWC plays a role in what her club determines to support in their country. Tricia loved talking about how her club helps her community and works together to make Belize a beautiful place to live.

If you would like your club to be a pen pal to any of our affiliate clubs, please let Kathryn Sowers, International Affiliates Chairman, know so we can contact them. They would love to communicate with other clubs, compare projects, and find ways in which we can help each other to *Live the Volunteer Spirit*.



PARTICIPATE. VOLUNTEER. CHEER. FUNDRAISE.

Join the GFWC National Team today!

Coming Soon in September 2023

fundraising.stjude.org/GFWC

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National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

www.GFWC.org

#GFWC23NDS

What is GFWC National Day of Service?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The **National Day of Service** (NDS) is a day in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs will participate by organizing Community Service Programs (CSP) in their communities as part of NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of GFWC.

How can you help solve food insecurity in the United States?

To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action.

Who should you invite to participate?

Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend(s) to join GFWC. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Ideas for NDS Activities:

- **Volunteer at a Local Food Bank**
- **Food Drives:** Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.
- **Raise Awareness About Hunger:** Reach out to your local media to introduce NDS and the cause being promoted. Ask the reporter to mention NDS and how people can participate and donate. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.
- **Advocate to End Food Insecurity:** Use GFWC's Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to the issue.

NDS Information & Updates:

Every week until September 30, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36 - National Day of Service)

food insecurity. Be sure to checkout the weekly electronic newsletter, *GFWC News & Notes*; Facebook and Instagram; and website, www.GFWC.org. Stay tuned for additional resources, including a tool kit and a media kit.

Resources to Locate Your Local Food Bank & Food Service Programs:

- Second Harvest – [food near me – Second Harvest \(2-harvest.org\)](http://foodnearme-SecondHarvest(2-harvest.org))
- Feeding America – [Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America](http://FindYourLocalFoodBank|FeedingAmerica)
- Type “food banks (your state)” into your search engine
- Find churches with food banks in your state – https://save.lovetoknow.com/Churches_with_Food_Pantries

For More Information About Food Insecurity:

- US Department of Agriculture – <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>
- Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion – <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>
- National Public Radio, *Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers* – <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>

To Register:

Please contact GFWC-MFWC President Theresa Buntyn at (601) 685-9550 or mfwctab@gmail.com.

GFWC Standing Rules Updated

The GFWC Standing Rules, as amended June 2023, have been posted on the Member Portal in the *Digital Library, in Resources, under "S"*.

The very first rule says: GFWC Standing Rules 1. General Rules a. "The Charter, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Strategic Plan, and Resolutions shall be made available to all members."

By posting the Standing Rules on the Member Portal, all members have access to them. Standing rules tend to be more administrative and speak to specifics while bylaws are more overarching and refer to procedures.

Read the Standing Rules and encourage others to do so. It's a great way to learn more about how GFWC operates.

Shot@Life Training – Be a Champion for Children

Join Shot@Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, to speak up for childhood immunization. During this 45-minute training on Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. ET you will learn about Shot@Life's work, tools, and tips for advocating to your members of Congress and your communities about global immunization programs.

By the end of the training, you will be an official Shot@Life Champion, ready to use your voice for the cause. You will also be eligible to join other Champions for the one-day, virtual *Mobilize to Immunize* Fall Summit on **Friday, September 29**, where you can dive deeper into the issues, learn from experts, and connect with fellow Champions nationwide.



shot@life

GFWC members are encouraged to join Shot@Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, to speak up for childhood immunization.

During this 45-minute remote training, you will learn about Shot@Life's work and the tools and tips for advocating the message to members of Congress and local community leaders about global immunization programs.

When: September 12
Time: 7 p.m. ET
 Note: Registered Attendees will receive a link to view the training if unable to attend live.

Registration link:
https://unfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hw1_PMUKRkeA35ObNYdPaA



REGISTER HERE

Summer 2023 Clubwoman Magazine Now Available

GFWC Clubwoman Magazine is the premier publication of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). It serves as a valuable communications tool to inform and educate our Federation about community service opportunities, project ideas, and ways to enhance club operations. Published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall), the magazine is a source for insightful and informative content that keeps members up-to-date about GFWC. Members can access previous issues via the *GFWC Resource Library*, through the [GFWC Member Portal](#), select folder "C," and open the "Clubwoman" folder.

READ NOW

