



Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.



A member of the General Federation of Women's Club since 1904

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

I trust that you are all well—staying in and being smart with your health. I wanted to touch base with everyone to assure you that at MFWC, there is no higher priority than the health and well-being of our members and our member's families. As the coronavirus outbreak continues to expand, our prayers are with all those who are affected. While the Federation remains open for business, your officers have been making necessary decisions following the latest guidance from the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and Mississippi Department of Health.

Additionally, our GFWC officers have been working around the clock as well with guidance to the State Federations on how to navigate these uncharted waters. GFWC President Mary Ellen Brock, GFWC First Vice President Deb Strahanoski, and GFWC Parliamentarian Deen Meloro have all reached out to us.

Saturday, March 14, 2020, just prior to the Northern District Convention, the Executive Officers met to discuss our options for the MFWC 2020 State Convention. Frances and I had signed two contracts: one with Margaritaville Vicksburg and one with Vicksburg Convention Center. The contract with the hotel required no deposit and could be canceled without any problem thirty days prior to the convention. The contract with VCC required a deposit and our hope was that by waiting until the Governor declared a state of emergency that we might get a refund— part of the delay in my letting you know this information. In the meantime, VCC emailed to inform that no events could take place for 8 weeks, but they would gladly reschedule.

Although the vote allowed by the Executive Committee was just to cancel the venue to release MFWC from that financial obligation, Standing Rule 9 states that the convention shall convene on the fourth weekend in April and to change that Standing Rule 9 requires the Executive Board to approve. There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a global health crisis. Therefore, a traditional board meeting was impossible. However, using the modern technology of Facebook Live limited to the private group — MFWC Board of Directors — combined with an email vote, your MFWC Board of Directors collectively met on March 17, 2020. After an address to members of the board, an email was sent to board members to allow for discussion for those unable to join us on Facebook. The motion to officially change the 2020 MFWC State Convention from the 4th weekend in April until a date determined later after COVID-19 is more contained was adopted with no opposition.

Rest assured, we are not canceling convention—just postponing! We have one administration to close out and Sherri certainly deserves her big moment! Margaritaville assured me that all rooms in the block had been canceled, however if you have not received an email confirmation please call 601-429-6472 cancel your hotel rooms as soon as possible. Along with Central District President Belinda Peacher, the executive officers will work together to develop a contingency plan for a modified convention at a later date. Please know that we will still have a Convention Program Book, so continue to send those ads in to Lisa!

Empowering the Heart to Make a Difference

Becky C. Wright, GFWC-MFVC President · 81 CR 281 · Banner, Mississippi 38913
C/T: (662)983-8836 · E: beckywright1964@gmail.com · www.gfwc-mfvc.org

Our top priority is and will remain the health and safety of our Clubwomen and their families, so the arrangements and solutions developed will support that goal. As we navigate these challenges, we will keep you informed. We have much to look forward to once this threat subsides and we are together again.

Please share with your fellow Clubwomen and as always, we are thankful for each of you and for what you do as part of GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs!

With continued Federation love,

Becky