

**Public Issues
Collaboration
Fall Board 2010
Bulletin 1**



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GFWC has given Public Affairs a new title, one that explains it more fully. After all, Public Issues Community Service Collaboration Programs are all the projects your club does which are independent of any GFWC relationship. You work on programs that benefit YOUR community. Be creative: This is the time to think of programs that may have been overlooked. And remember to put your club's name on material you distribute in the community so you get some PR, and hopefully new members!

Working together: Don't worry about whether your Public Issues projects should be reported to Bonnie Wine, the Partnership Chairman, or me, the Collaboration Chairman. Bonnie and I should EACH receive a copy of your club's Public Issues report. You don't have to divide your programs. We look forward to reading your reports.

Let's look at some program ideas

Elections: Helping with elections is a popular way your members can assist your community. Your club might host a nonpartisan candidate forum, encourage a member to run for office, register young people so they can vote, drive a neighbor so they can vote or take cookies to poll workers. Become a board member of an agency in your community.

Military: You can help the troops in many ways, including Boatsie's Boxes for deployed service personnel, Operation Hug a Hero, cards to the military, cell phone donations (and phone cards) to the military and families, coupons for military, support for Fisher House and donations to your local Veteran's Medical Hospital. Don't forget to visit patients at the VA Hospital when donating. Seek out women service members in your area, and support them. Maybe you can honor them at a club meeting.

Patriotism: Purchase a new flag for your community, recognize new citizens, provide refreshments for new citizens' ceremonies, encourage flag etiquette and proper disposal, or sponsor a patriotic sing-a-long. Help to instill pride in our heritage.

Crime prevention: Many clubs partner with their local law enforcement agencies to educate our communities and help prevent crimes. Invite a speaker to your club meeting or learn self-defense techniques.

Fire prevention: Encourage every home to have a fire extinguisher and change the batteries in smoke alarms once a year. Sponsor a fire prevention program in your community. Have an emergency plan to escape your home in case of fire. Work on projects to educate children about fire prevention. GFWC clubs across America have helped to purchase ambulances.

Disasters: In Florida, we are mindful of hurricanes and flooding. Your club can help victims of hurricanes, by feeding and providing laundry services. Encourage the community to have an escape plan before disaster occurs, complete with food, water and medication. Set a procedure to let an out-of-state relative or friend know where you are, so they can notify other family and friends. Program your cell phone with ICE (in case of emergency).

Community safety: Sponsor a first aid and/or CPR class at a club meeting. Partner with a local hospital or health clinic on a project. Become aware of the hazardous product recalls, especially toy recalls, by contacting U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. For free info: www.CPSC.gov You can also report an unsafe product on this Web site.

Vehicle safety: Don't dial and drive, and NEVER text on your Cell and drive. Encourage hands-free devices for cell phones. Participate in WHALE (We Have A Little Emergency) car safety seat identification program. Order material from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Web: www.NHTSA.DOT.gov

Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc. The Not-For-Profit organization's goal is to continually encourage the men and women who are abroad fighting for our nation. Their purpose is to inspire hope, strength and courage while they are separated from loved ones, families and friends. They hold fundraisers and plan welcome-home parties for soldiers. Call 561-493-9819, or click www.forgottensoldiers.org

The Patriotic Pillow Case Project is an easy project your club can assist with by donating a few dollars to a fellow clubwoman who is a winning wheelchair athlete, and is doing something from home to help our soldiers. The pillowcases are made in a variety of designs, from flags, sports, holidays, to Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force. Each veteran can choose the pillowcase she/he wants. Everyone needs a little piece of home on which to lay his or her head. For information, click www.patrioticpillowcaseproject.com/.

Supporting Soldiers: This site has a lot of interesting things individuals and groups can do in support of the troops, wounded and otherwise. Perhaps there is something here for your club. <http://adoptaplatoon.org/site/> The Adopt a Platoon Soldier Support Effort was founded in 1998 and is a volunteer-based group dedicated to serving deployed U.S. service men and women, ensuring they are not forgotten by a grateful nation. It also services injured troops through the AAP Walking Wounded Project and assists military veterans who remain our nation's heroes.

For complete information and resources on the GFWC Public Issues Community Service Program, click www.GFWC.org. You can access (or download) the complete 2010-12 Club Manual.