

**Public Issues Collaboration  
Convention 2011**



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There were 89 outstanding Florida clubs that reported in Public Issues Collaboration in 2010. There were 775 projects, 34,101 hours, \$29,412 cost to clubs, and \$110,291 in-kind contributions.

GFWC encourages club members to run for office, and we are proud of 16 Florida members who are elected officials. **WC of Tallahassee** has a state representative and a county commissioner. **WC of Tarpon Springs** has a mayor, plus a member who is an Arbitrator for Better Business Bureau. **Philaco WC of Apalachicola** has a member who is supervisor of elections and a county clerk of court. **WC of Crestview** has a club member who has been a council member for 12 years. Others include school board members, town and county officials. Members also volunteer on boards: mental health, historical society, city parks and recreation board, library boards, education boards, municipal council members/advisors and church boards.

**For our military**, clubs supported Operation Write Home, Forgotten Soldiers, Holiday Mail for Heroes, Let's Say Thanks, Hug A Hero, Moms for Soldiers Project, Paws for Patriots, Homes for Troops, Wear Red on Fridays, and Fisher Houses. **Crystal River WC** made breakfast for 40 people at their local Fisher House. **St. Petersburg WC** had a speaker from Fisher House.

**Naples WC** made 175 helmet liners, **Branford WC** knitted helmet liners, and **WC of Hialeah** made 250 helmet liners for active military. **Grand Haven WC** collected \$510 to give to Marine Corp League who forward packages to Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Clubs sent cards** to the troops, including Valentine, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. Clubs sent packages overseas, and bought cases of Girl Scout cookies for the troops. Many clubs clipped coupons, and several worked with their junior club on this project.

**Plantation WC** had a speaker from the Army reserves talk about his year tour in Iraq.

**Ocala WC** gave \$350 for Honor Flight. **WC of Crestview** worked 130 hours with Honor Flight. **WC of Panama City** co-hosted (with a church) a Wounded Warrior retreat. **Central Florida Service League** participated in Wounded Warrior project.

Clubs participated in Wreaths Across America. Florida's **District 7 Director** made it a district project.

**For Florida veteran's hospitals**, clubs donated white tube socks, books, playing cards, puzzles, games, hygiene items, and made lap robes. **Hialeah** donated 119 back scratchers. **Greater West Palm Beach WC** made table decorations for the dining room for the holidays at the VA Hospital in Palm Beach County. The **WC of Welaka** worked with the Knights of Columbus to collect \$1,200 throughout the year to purchase a wheelchair. **Sun City Center WC** collected 3,470 books and magazines for veterans at Haley VA Hospital and Nursing Home. **Cutler Ridge WC** made 250 cards for five holidays. **Temple Terrace WC** held a bingo party at their local veteran's hospital. **WC of Leesburg** serves coffee and treats three times a year at Leesburg VA Hospital.

**Let's look at some of the projects clubs did in 2010:**

**North Pinellas WC** made 90 care packages for the military in the Middle East. They included food, CDs, DVDs and comfort items. Each package contained a patriotic note card with the club name and GFWC logo on them (made on member's computer).

**Viera WC** participated in a disabled veterans golf tournament, assisting with registration, serving breakfast and more.

**WC of Plant City** bought 3 bricks for a new Veterans Memorial Park in memory of three members who were veterans.

**Arlington WC** member was recognized at city council meeting for her volunteer work.

**Lutz-Land O'Lakes WC** donated 5 wreaths at local VA Cemetery.

**WC of Macclenny** had Chamber of Commerce President speak on amendments on November ballot.

At Florida's September meeting, clubs were asked to bring items for the veteran's hospital in the Orlando area. More than 25 clubs responded with more than \$4,000 worth of items.

**Supporting the USO** was popular with clubs near a military base. One member of the **WC of Hialeah** volunteered throughout the year, **Jacksonville Beach WC** helped at the USO, and **Fort Walton Beach WC** gave \$400 in-kind contribution. **WC of Crestview** helped USO office located at the airport.

**Melbourne WC** gave \$600 to Honor America Inc, a non-profit organization operating the Liberty Bell Museum, which promotes patriotism.

**Flags and flag etiquette:** Several clubs had Boy Scouts display proper method of flag folding, and many discussed proper disposal method (burning) of a flag. **Lake Placid WC** sponsor an annual Veteran's Day Flag Wave, with members standing under town's large flag, getting thumbs-up from passing motorists.

**Historic preservation: Village Improvement Association, Orange City WC** has a member on the city's historic board. **Boynton WC** has an Addison Mizner designed historic clubhouse. All repairs and improvements have to be researched and approved by a board before they can be made. **Punta Gorda WC** gave \$500 to the city's Historic Society.

**Gulf Coast WC** had 10 members train as poll workers, work 133 hours and donated the \$3,610 they earned to company that helped the environment affected by the BP oil spill in their area.

Several clubs held candidate forums. **Deltona Woman's Club** partnered with their Chamber of Commerce for Meet the Candidate Night. **Palm Beach Gardens WC** joined 5 other women's organizations to hold a forum. **Satellite Beach WC** created a manual on "how to run a political forum."

Many clubs worked on **legislative issues**, including attending annual FFWC Legislative Days at Florida's capital. They met with their local and state representatives, toured the building and governor's mansion, and met Gov. Charlie Christ.

Several clubs signed petition to get May Mann Jennings listed on the National Hall of Fame. Clubs signed online petitions, sent them in the mail, and/or made phone calls on a variety of issues, including domestic assault awareness and prevention, jobs, healthcare, eliminating texting while driving, say no to violence, seat belts for children, and in one case, naming a high school (club lost that petition).

#### **New ideas for you:**

Check the Web at [www.GFWC.org/WHRC](http://www.GFWC.org/WHRC) for information on **Women's History and Resource Center**. You can find a wealth of information, including information on women who have made a difference in our Federation and the world.

A new project, "Fairways for Warriors," around the Orlando area uses golf instruction to help the military and veterans. Check it out: [www.fairwaysforwarriors.org](http://www.fairwaysforwarriors.org) (thanks to Linda Dennis for this info).