



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS
living the volunteer spirit



MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

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Greetings GFWC Florida Members!

Welcome to the new 2020-2022 Membership Manual! It is my hope that you find this tool a huge help as you manage the business of your club. Our 2nd Vice President Terry Reese is working very diligently to support our current members and encourage clubs to grow membership.

Going forward in the 2020-2022 administration, I ask that you promote Unity in Diversity under the GFWC Florida Umbrella, with Love, Respect, and Kindness for all! Please be the member and the club who looks at their community and asks what and who need our help.

Our emphasis will be on all special needs from Autism, Alzheimer's , Arts for All, Special Olympics, Cancer Patients, Rescue Animals, Scholarships, Diabetes, Heart Health, Transplant Programs, Disabled veterans both physically and mentally, help for our First Responders and any and everything that calls out to your community.

Look for and find your clubs' passions. We will all be the recipients of your Love, Respect and Kindness!

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
GFWC Florida President



WELCOME



It is a pleasure to welcome you to GFWC Florida's Membership Manual. We are sure that the information provided here will soon have you feeling the sense of pride we share in belonging to our organization. We hope that you will take advantage of the many benefits that come with membership and that you use this opportunity to be part of a powerful forum for women.

The goal of this manual is to provide our members with basic information. This material is intended to be used in club orientations, new member orientations, and for club brochures, speeches, newsletters, and yearbooks. Please feel free to pick and choose what you need for any given project.

I encourage you to visit GFWC Florida's Website at gfwcflorida.org and the National Website at GFWC.org. These websites will offer you an abundance of information on membership benefits, services, awards and recruitment campaigns.

Members will feel a strong attachment to their club when they participate in club activities and enjoy the friendships and fellowship that come with being a member. Make them feel appreciated by recognizing their achievements with certificates and honoring them with anniversary pins. Membership materials and pins may be purchased from our Mall at gfwcflorida.org, or at the Headquarters Merchandise Table at State meetings.

Watch for information about Recruitment Campaigns and Membership Bulletins in GFWC Florida's Newsletters. Feel free to call or e-mail me with questions about membership or the start-up of a new club. My e-mail address is: secondvp@gfwcflorida.org, phone: 863-633-8077

We all want our clubs to thrive so let's gather the women with our **2020-2022 Membership Drive**.



Terry Reese, GFWC Florida Second Vice President

Benefits of Membership

The General Federation of Women's Clubs unites the best and brightest of today's women into a strong coalition, nearly 80,000 strong, that promotes community improvement through volunteer service. The many benefits of belonging to a GFWC woman's club include:

- **Strength in unity** – GFWC members gain a stronger voice in shaping public issues through the combined efforts of women serving at the club, district, state, region and national levels.
- **Support and encouragement** – GFWC offers members a network of women with similar interests and concerns. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are a big part of the GFWC experience.
- **Leadership training and professional development** – Knowledge and experience gained through GFWC volunteer training and community service can help open career doors, enhance a resume, obtain academic credit, or build a new business.
- **A varied volunteer menu** – GFWC offers many national resources to help clubs plan and create community service projects in the diverse area of Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness. GFWC also supports special programs that raise consciousness about domestic violence awareness and prevention and advocates for children.
- **Health and happiness** - Studies show the personal satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference in their communities helps volunteers to live longer, function better, and have lower rates of depression.

GFWC clubs and clubwomen are the heart of not only the Federation, but the communities in which they live and work. By *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, GFWC clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With a grassroots approach that often thinks locally but impacts globally, GFWC, its clubs and members remain committed to serving as a force for global good, as it has done since its formation 130 years ago.

Membership Updates and Dues

It is suggested that new member dues be sent to GFWC Florida Headquarters as soon as they are collected by the club, whenever during the year that occurs. They do not need be held until all member dues are sent in December 15th. Your club will not pay twice on these new members.

When the Membership List is updated and the Remittance Form with donations is sent in December, the new member names will be included, but you will note next to those whose dues have already been sent that they were paid previously. This allows us to welcome new members in the timeliest manner.

Forms can be found in the Member Resource Center on gfwcflorida.org

What to Report under Membership

Focus on Member Recruitment

- Developed a specific one/two-year recruitment program
- How potential members were targeted/contacted
- Events held to recruit new members
- New member materials/kits
- Mentored new members
- New member orientations
- Recognized new members
- Recognized sponsors of new members
- New member projects (for them and/or by them)
- Started a new club, Women's Clubs, Junior Club, or Juniorette Club

Focus on Membership Retention

- Recognizing and thanking members, by name with "Shout Outs", cards, birthdays, special occasions, etc. at meetings, in newsletters, on Facebook, or email
- Ongoing orientations for ALL members. Can be short or long items handled in newsletters, at meetings, through websites, or handouts regarding GFWC, GFWC Florida, or club wide programs and history
- Greeters, name tags, welcome committees
- Club socials, summer get-togethers, lunch bunches, dinners, wine tasting, or ice

cream socials, etc.

- Membership surveys for interests and satisfaction
- Sunshine/courtesy chairman
- Recognition of members with pins, certificate for 5,10,15, etc. years
- Special recognition for 25/50 year members
- GFWC Florida/ Volunteer of the Year program (see the website for the information and form)
- Membership Week Proclamation
- Using GFWC/GFWC Florida materials available on the website
- Celebrating Federation Day
- Jennie June Award nominations
- Sponsoring and advising a Juniorette club
- Club Anniversary Celebration

Other

- Club Newsletter
- Club Yearbook
- 1895 Society Participation and Support (supports our GFWC FL Headquarters)
- 1734 Society Participation and Support (supports the GFWC Headquarters located at 1734 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.)
- Contribute articles to GFWC blog - pr@gfwc.org
- Subscribe to GFWC Clubwoman - visit gfwc.org to order your subscription
- Contribute to GFWC Florida Clubwoman weekly electronic newsletter - send articles and action photos to newsletter@gfwcflorida.org
- GFWC Florida Road Signs
- Owns Clubhouse
- Rental/Maintenance of Clubhouse

Challenge Your Members!

- Orient all members so they fully understand the club, district, state, and national structure (GFWC Florida and GFWC).
- Plan stimulating, different, and fun club programs.
- Survey membership to determine interests.
- Initiate "mentor or sister" programs to make new members feel wanted.
- Encourage your members to participate in projects they enjoy.
- Recognize members for special accomplishments. Examples: "Member of the Month" in news- letters; highlight new members.
- Set realistic goals and measurable objectives, so that members will feel creative and fulfilled.
- Do not impose excessive financial obligations on members. Make sure they realize what is required by your club bylaws and what is optional.
- Involve family members in the work of the club. Promote GFWC Florida Booster Club which is now open to all friends and family.
- Encourage and support members to attend district, state, and General Federation meetings and conventions.
- Assign greeters at the door to make sure everyone feels welcome.
- Keep members informed of club, district, GFWC Florida, and GFWC news.
- Use email, twitter or Facebook to quickly contact the membership and to share great projects going on in other clubs. Develop a club Facebook page as well as a website.
- Get all of your members signed up for GFWC Florida Clubwoman electronic newsletter.
- Make sure each club member is assigned to at least one Community Service Program or committee. Encourage chairman to meet with and include all members.
- Keep absent members informed of activities of the club. Contact them by email or a phone call to let them know they were missed.
- Ask members to do something. It need not be major but everyone needs to feel necessary.

Encourage Flexibility in Your Club

There is one thing we know; there is just not enough time. One of the most common reasons a member leaves a club is lack of time. Respect your members' time, and they are more likely to make your club a permanent fixture in their lives.

- Streamline meetings to ensure they are as convenient and productive as possible to meet the needs and diversity of your club members.
- Consider the time commitments of members, and schedule meetings that accommodate as many members as possible. Sometimes this is the time to consider a new sister club or possibly a separate division to meet at a different time.
- Email or mail the minutes and treasurer's report prior to the meeting, allowing time for members to review for corrections or additions at home.
- Make an agenda and stick to it. Do write a script for each meeting. Remember to always start at the scheduled time.
- Keep reports brief and pertinent. Nicely, help your chairman learn what a reasonable time is.
- Help keep reports brief at a meeting by encouraging chairmen to say as much as they can in the club newsletter. At the meeting they can say their report is in the newsletter and no further information is necessary.
- Two hours is about the right time frame for a meeting.
- Allow time for discussion. You do want to hear from your members, but set a time limit on debate.
- Provide time either before or after the scheduled meeting for socializing and refreshments.
- Use various techniques to get members to sit with members they don't know as well.
- Include programs that are interesting, stimulating, and short.

Key Points for Retaining Members - The Eleven P's for Retention



- ✓ Personality
- ✓ Promptness
- ✓ Programs
- ✓ Projects
- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Placement
- ✓ Product
- ✓ Promotion
- ✓ Price
- ✓ Progress
- ✓ Pride

GFWC Florida Acronyms and Frequently Used Phrases

ADM	Annual District Meeting (also known as Fall Tour of Officers)
ACS	American Cancer Society
ACTrees	Alliance for Community Trees
Arts4All	The international organization on arts and disability. This ties in to our Arts & Culture CSP, and clubs can find many resources and ideas at https://arts4allflorida.org/ to help develop programs for their communities.
BOD	GFWC Florida Board of Directors (See GFWC Florida Bylaws at gfwcflorida.org). In the Bylaws, refer to Article IX - Board of Directors, for a listing of positions included in the BOD.
BRICKS	Bricks for the walkway and driveway leading to the entrance of our Headquarters building in Lakeland. Benches also may be purchased for placement on the grounds at Headquarters. Visit gfwcflorida.org for more information.
CAP	Child Assault Prevention

CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CHARLOTTE MEEDS SMITH	The Junior Volunteer of the Year award
CIP	Community Impact Program – a two-year project in which clubs participate to enhance lives in their communities.
COLLECT	Our creed - Written by Mary Stewart, GFWC was the first organization to use it in print and in its yearbook. Go to GFWC.org for a detailed history of Mary Stewart and the Collect.
CSP	Community Service Program - focus areas of Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment and Health & Wellness.
CWLA	Child Welfare League of America
DV	Domestic Violence Awareness
EC	GFWC Florida Executive Committee
ESO	Epsilon Sigma Omicron - an honorary educational society open to all per capita paying GFWC federated club members.
DD	District Director
ESL	English as a second language
FALL TOUR	Annual District meetings held in the Fall. The two tour teams are members of the Board of Directors. They split up the 14 Districts with each visiting 7. Then, while the teams remain the same in year two of the administration, they visit the Districts they did not meet in year one. These meetings provide an opportunity for those clubwomen who are unable to attend state meetings to meet with and get to know our state leaders, as well as hear about GFWC Florida programs and plans.
FEDERATION SONG	Suwannee River

FFWC Old acronym for Florida Federation of Women's Clubs

GAIL HILL SMITH AWARD Award for outstanding marketing and GFWC branding of a Junior Woman's Club project

GFWC General Federation of Women's Clubs, headquartered in Washington, DC

GINNY WINSEMAN AWARD Award presented to the most outstanding Junior District Director

HOBY Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership - a weekend of leadership training for high school sophomores

HONOR SCORE A report each club may submit. This report reflects many aspects of club work and participation. Those clubs earning 100 points or more receive an Honor Score Certificate.

JASM Juniorette Annual State Meeting - usually held in June each year.

JDD Junior District Director

JEC Junior Executive Committee

JETTS Junioresses

JPC Junior Planning Committee

JWC Junior Women's Clubs

JENNIE JUNE The pen name for journalist and activist Jane Cunningham Croly, founder of GFWC. Visit www.gfwcflorida.org for more information.

JOYCE JOHNSTON JUNIOR TO JUNIORETTE AWARD

Award presented for outstanding interaction between a Junior Woman's Club and Juniorette Club who have worked together.

JUDY LUTZ INTERACTION

Award given to the Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club who have worked together to serve their communities and interests.

KAB	Keep America Beautiful
LAM	List of Available Materials
LBP	Lois B. Perkins Award for Florida's most outstanding Woman's Club
LEADS	Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar , a grass roots effort to identify members with leadership potential and a desire to progress to offices at club, district, and state levels.
MAL	Member at Large
MARY CLARK	Award given to the most outstanding Junior Woman's Club
MARY ANN TAYLOR AWARD	Award presented to a Junior member for exemplary child advocacy.
MOD	March of Dimes
MOTTO	In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity.
NANCY CRAWFORD LEADERSHIP AWARD	Award for most outstanding leadership by a Junior member.
ONE VOICE FOR CHILDREN	A grant up to \$1,000 available to ALL clubs to be used for projects associated with child advocacy. Funds are raised through the Junior Fundraising Table. Grant applications are on www.gfwcflorida.org
RONR	Roberts Rules of Order Revised.
SRC	Southern Region Conference - GFWC has 8 regions. SRC includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Aruba. SRC meets each year at the GFWC International Convention, and again in the Fall.

SUMMER

PLANNING A weekend meeting held during the Summer, usually in July, of year one of an administration. (The meeting gathers together the EC, JEC, DDs, JDDs, Chairmen and Committee Members, Junior Chairmen and Committee Members, JPC, District President's Project Chairmen, and District Membership Chairmen.)

TEDDY HULSE Award presented for outstanding interaction between Junior clubs.
JR TO JR INTERACTION AWARD

VOY Volunteer of the Year – each woman's club has the opportunity to acknowledge a member for their club VOY and submit that name to the District for competition. District VOY's compete for a GFWC Florida VOY which is announced at Convention each spring.

WHALE We Have A Little Emergency – a Junior-sponsored program open to all. Kits may be ordered from GFWC Florida HQ. Program allows for identifying information to be available on child car seats in case of emergency, when the adult(s) may not be in a position to provide information to emergency workers.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

A monetary award for high school seniors (male or female) who exemplify superior leadership skills and volunteerism. The youth may be nominated from any GFWC Florida club. The award dollars are raised at the Junior Fundraising Table as well as from Club Remittance Forms.

1895

SOCIETY Established to preserve our past and ensure our future. Requires an annual donation for membership. Upon joining, members are given a pin and the year of their donation "charm," with yearly memberships added to the pin. Funds raised already have permitted improvements to our Headquarters building in Lakeland. Look for the 1895 Society table at state meetings to join and renew.

WHRC Women's History Resource Center, housed at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., was established in 1984. WHRC is accessed by journalists and researchers from across the U.S.A.

Historic Headquarters

GFWC Headquarters is located in the Dupont Circle area of Washington DC. There is a distinctively residential atmosphere on the quiet block of N Street where Headquarters stands among several other large old homes. The July 1980 issue of *The Washingtonian*, a popular magazine, carried several pages of the "The Best and Worst of Washington." When it came to the best block in Washington, the magazine stated, "there is one and only one, and that is the N Street block between 17th and 18th Streets, noted for its peaceful charm and perfectly kept old-time homes."

The historic mansion at 1734 N Street NW has an illustrious history. Rear Admiral William Radford built the five-story stone and brick mansion in 1875 upon his retirement from the U.S. Navy. By 1895 the neighborhood was well developed and ready to welcome the colorful character of the next owner, General Nelson A. Miles, Commanding General in the Spanish American War. General Miles rose to fame in the Indian wars and was cited for gallantry in the Civil War. The house was a gift to the distinguished soldier, who made it his home until 1903. He built the stable in the rear of the lot to house his thoroughbred horses. General Miles gave Duke, one of his most beautiful horses, to Buffalo Bill, who used him as a lead horse in his shows for many years. At the present time, the stable is leased to the Iron Gate Inn, a prominent Washington restaurant.

Later owners of the Nelson A. Miles mansion, as it is known, were Mr. and Mrs. John Jay White, who remodeled the house into a modern residence. Mr. White was a great traveler and a big game hunter, frequently accompanying President Theodore Roosevelt on expeditions from which he brought back trophies to adorn his house. It was during the White's residency that the impressive murals for the second floor drawing room were painted in Paris by Alfred Herter, a renowned artist. In 1922, Mr. White sold the property to the General Federation of Women's Clubs for \$70,000.

The mansion is now the center of three buildings owned by the Federation. A staff of twenty coordinates programs; provides resource material; promotes communications with members, the media and other organizations; monitors legislation; networks with federal agencies and associate groups; maintains membership records; manages a multi-layered financial structure; operates a library and archives (which involves collecting materials, assisting researchers and cataloging organization and club histories); and arranges meetings, conventions, and training seminars.

In 1991, the main building of GFWC Headquarters was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan in recognition of its "national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America." The house is full of GFWC memorabilia, antiques, and gifts from state and individual members. During her two years in office, the GFWC President resides in an apartment on the fourth floor.

Members are encouraged to schedule visits for clubs or during a family trip to Washington, DC. Guided tours are provided Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Group visits are available by advance appointment only. To arrange a visit, contact GFWC Headquarters at 202/347-3168 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

GFWC Symbols

Unity in Diversity – motto

Ella Dietz Clymer, President of Sorosis, addressed the delegates at the 1889 organizational meeting of the Federation, which called together members of existing women's clubs. "We look for unity, but unity in diversity," she said; "we hope that you will enrich us by your varied experience, and let us pledge ourselves to work for a common cause, the cause of united womanhood throughout the world." Her memorable phrase, "Unity in Diversity," was adopted as the official motto of the Federation in 1957, and it set the tone for the flexibility that has allowed GFWC to grow and adapt to the changing and diverse lifestyles and concerns of women throughout more than a century of volunteer work.

History of Emblem

The Federation had not been underway long when the question arose as to what distinguishing emblem its members should wear, so as to recognize each other. Dr. Leila G. Bedell of the Chicago Woman's Club recommended at the 1892 convention that "some simple badge be designed which all could procure and wear."

A committee was named with Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC founder; Charlotte Emerson Brown, first GFWC President; and Jennie de la M. Lozier of Sorosis, as members. They chose a design that incorporated a rising sun as the symbol. There is no record that the design was ever endorsed by either the convention or the Board of Directors, but when the Council met in 1893, the pin was already in distribution. The pin was blue and silver with a terra cotta background.

When Alice Ames Winter became President in 1920, she was dissatisfied with the rising sun symbol, saying, "We decided that the sun had risen, and that the time had come for a new emblem that more nearly represented the mature organization." Accordingly, a new design, submitted by Douglas Donaldson, was approved in 1920. The design shows a crusader's shield signifying enlightenment emerging from the darkened world which is represented by a black center; the band encircling the center signifies eternity surrounded by the letters GFWC and the motto "Unity in Diversity."

Use of Emblem

GFWC holds trademarks on the GFWC emblem. Active members are granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free limited license to use the GFWC trademark, meaning that it may be used to promote GFWC at the club, district, state regional, and/or international levels (on items such as stationery, advertising and marketing materials, signs, websites, publications, forms, etc.). Comprehensive *GFWC Trademark Use Policies* and camera-ready artwork for the emblem are available from GFWC Head- quarters.

Federation Flower

The red rose was officially adopted at the Council Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 1940. It was selected from suggestions submitted by various clubs.

Federation Color

A May 9, 1893, report stated that the color blue, signifying constancy, was chosen by Charlotte Emerson Brown and Jane Cunningham Croly.

Song

In 1922, Katherine Lee Bates' song "America, The Beautiful" was chosen because it "is a song of dignity and beauty, easily sung, and reflecting the true spirit of America and the ideals of the Federation."

Flag

The GFWC official flag is blue with an embroidered Federation emblem in color in the center. The GFWC flag was unfurled for the first time at the Golden Jubilee celebration in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on May 19, 1941.

A Collect for Clubwomen

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding.
And leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face
Without self-pity and without prejudice>
May we never be hasty in judgment
And always generous
Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle,

Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
Straightforward and unafraid.
And may we realize it is the little that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.

- Mary Stewart, April 1904

Junior Pledge

I pledge my loyalty
to the Junior Clubwomen
By doing better than ever before
what work I have to do,
By being prompt, honest, courteous,
By living each day, trying to accomplish something,
Not merely to exist.

- Helen Cheney Kimberly

GFWC Facts

GFWC Mission Statement

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Capsule History of GFWC

Founded in 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the world's oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organizations, is well into its second century of volunteer service throughout the United States and the world.

GFWC traces its roots back to Jane Cunningham Croly, an accomplished New York newspaperwoman, who wrote under the pen name of Jennie June. Indignant that she and other women were denied admittance to a banquet honoring Charles Dickens in 1868 at the all-male New York Press Club simply because they were women, she determined to organize a club for women only.

The name chosen for this club was Sorosis, a Greek word meaning “an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits.”

Although Sorosis’ founders originally supposed they were starting a new movement, they became aware over the years of the existence of other women’s clubs that had formed independently to meet the needs of women in the expanding country.

In 1889, as Sorosis approached its 21st year, Mrs. Croly proposed a conference in New York to bring together delegates from 61 women’s clubs. On the last day of the conference, the women took action to form a permanent organization. A committee to draft a constitution and plan of organization to be ratified the following year was chosen with Sorosis President Ella Dietz Clymer as chairman. The constitution was adopted in April 1890, and the General Federation of Women’s Clubs was born. It was chartered in 1901 by the U.S. Congress.

To this day, the middle day of the 1890 organizing conference – April 24 – is celebrated each year as “Federation Day”.

Goals and Accomplishments

As it unites member clubs, the Federation’s goal is to encourage women to improve their skills, expand their rights, and apply their abilities and special sensitivity to the problems of their communities and nations. Originally founded as a means of self-education and development for women, gradually the clubs’ emphasis changed to community service.

GFWC areas of activity include arts and culture, civic engagement and outreach, environment, education and libraries and environment, as well as other special projects. The Federation has a distinguished record of activity on issues of historical importance and this legacy is continued today. The banding together of existing clubs in the early 1890s has become an international organization of community-based volunteers in thousands of clubs in all 50 states, plus U.S. territories.

GFWC Achievements – Past and Present

Is it possible that women may have a life of their own, may learn to know and honor each other, may find solace in companionship, and lose sight of small troubles in larger aims?

-Jane Cunningham Croly, Founder, GFWC

It was 1889, when pioneer journalist and syndicated columnist Jennie June Croly asked that rhetorical question in an issue of the magazine, *The Woman's Cycle*. But Ms. Croly had already answered it 21 years earlier when she organized Sorosis, one of the earliest women's clubs, and the first step in the formation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, now one of the world's oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational women's volunteer service organizations.

Beginning in the last decade of the 19th century, women's clubs not only increased in numbers, but also enlarged their focus from self to larger aims of community service and involvement. In more recent times, GFWC members have:

Generously contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance to be used by the New York City Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered as the result of 9/11.

Fulfilled a commitment to America's Promise by raising and donating over \$135 million in books and materials to public libraries and public-school libraries through its Libraries 2000 Program.

Partnered with the President's Commission on the "Celebration of Women in American History" in an effort to increase awareness of the important role women have played in local communities since our country was founded.

Sponsored a nationwide discussion on the changing roles of women through "Which Way Forward for Women?" forums.

Initiated the annual Jane Cunningham Croly/GFWC Print Journalism Contest for "Excellence in Covering Issues of Concern to Women".

Attended a ceremony in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1994 at which time GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Initiated a "Safety for Older Americans" program.

Instituted a "Youth Suicide Prevention" program.

Founded the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

In 1899, clubwomen established the national model for the juvenile court system.

GFWC is credited with turning the tide for passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

The War Service Fund was established during World War I to train and send 100 young women overseas to operate or manage recreational canteens for American soldiers.

During World War II, the GFWC Headquarters was transformed into a War Service office which distributed literature to keep women alert about war activities. Clubwomen raised over \$150 million in the “Buy a Bomber” campaign and collected wedding gowns for British brides.

GFWC was at the forefront of the conservation movement which resulted in the establishment of the Forest Reserve in 1899 and the National Park Service in 1916. Clubwomen have directly contributed to the establishment of four National Parks.

GFWC began a campaign to name official state birds and flowers in the 1920s.

By the 1930s, women’s clubs were responsible for the establishment of 75% of the nation’s public libraries.

As early as 1944, GFWC endorsed a resolution supporting equal rights and responsibilities for women.

Many modern safety measures were early GFWC programs. The Women’s Crusade for Seatbelts program, sponsored by GFWC in 1960, helped to advocate automobile safety which resulted in more than one million car seat belts installed in the course of one year.

GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York in 1994.

GFWC fulfilled its commitment to America’s Promise by raising and donating over \$13.5 million in books and materials to public libraries and public school libraries through its Libraries 2000 project (1997-2002).

Started an “Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education” program for women and children.

Supported equal pay for equal work.

Was credited as the first women’s organization to endorse the Peace Corps.

Was credited as the first women’s organization to implement an AIDS education program.

Past GFWC Achievements

Established 75 percent of public libraries throughout the United States. Established first traveling libraries.

In 1904, asked Congress to enact legislation to establish a Department of Education, whose head shall be a cabinet officer.

Helped establish kindergarten as part of public schools.

Between 1943-1945, raised over \$250 million through the sale of war bonds to purchase planes and equipment.

First endorsed a resolution supporting equal rights and responsibilities for women.

Established and developed night schools for adults; raised funds to keep public schools open at night.

Helped establish reforms in the juvenile court system.

Instrumental in the enactment of the first child labor and protection laws. Supported legislation for the eight-hour work day.

Instrumental in the establishment of the first “Workers Compensation Act”.

Fought for property rights of married women.

Established Girlstown, a school for emotionally disturbed girls in Michigan in 1953.

Played a significant role in the passage of the “Pure Food and Drug Act”, which was passed in June 1906.

Raised funds to refurbish Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

First women's organization to undertake a relief program in the food deficit region of the world through the Signs of Crisis program in association with CARE.

Launched a nationwide campaign for the improvement of school conditions and for compulsory attendance laws.

Worked for the establishment of a National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., in the 1920's.

Established Royal Palm State Park in Florida in 1916; maintained the park until 1947, when it became the nucleus of Everglades National Park.

Helped to pass an amendment to the "Federal Water Power Act" in 1922, which would make it impossible for individuals or corporations to file claims for water rights in national parks or monuments.

Endorsed the establishment of minimum wage commissions in all states in 1920, and urged a legal eight-hour day for women in industrial pursuits.

Recruited over 6,000 young women for the Cadet Nurse Corps.

Provided funds for the re-establishment of the educational systems in devastated countries after World War II.

Developed an anti-pornography campaign with 38 states enacting legislation.

Was selected as one of five women's organizations invited by the United States to send a consultant to the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

Notable Clubwomen

Julia Ward Howe, best known for authoring the poem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," was a prolific writer, a leader in the suffrage movement, and a respected lecturer. She helped organize the New England Woman's Club in 1868, and served as President of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs.

Ellen Demorest helped revolutionize the fashion industry in the 1860s with the invention and mass production of paper dress making patterns. She owned a successful dress making shop in New York City as well as a popular magazine and was a founding member of Sorosis.

Jane Addams founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, which served as a model for the social reform movement of the Progressive Era. She was a vocal advocate for working women and child labor laws. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, and was an active member of the Chicago Woman's Clubs.

Julia Lathrop was the first person appointed by President Taft to head the Federal Children's Bureau, which was created in 1912. As a member of the Chicago Woman's Club, she assisted the club in working for juvenile court laws.

Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first female governor when she was inaugurated in Wyoming in 1924. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Cheyenne and served as the first female Director of the U.S. Mint.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a First Lady, social reformer, columnist, teacher, political activist, and member of the Chautauqua Woman's Club in New York. She as a tireless advocate for the poor and dis- advantaged and exercised her influence as a speaker and writer.

Bertha Ethel Knight Landes was elected the first woman mayor of a major city (Seattle) in 1926. She had previously served as president of the city council and president of Seattle City Federation of Women's Clubs.

Ellen S. Woodward was appointed by President Roosevelt in 1938 to the three-member Social Security Board on which she administered the programs of the Social Securities Act. She was as an active member of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, elected to the state legislature in 1925, and the second woman to serve in the House of Representatives.

GFWC Florida History

GFWC Florida, now in its second century of community service, traces its history to the community interest found in Florida women in the late 1890's and early 1900's. In 1883, the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs (FL) consisted of 18 women's groups. By 1891, the Housekeeper's Club of Coconut Grove had formed. It joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in 1891, the first Florida club to do so. By 1900, several more women's clubs had been established across the state.

On January 25, 1898, the FFWC was admitted into membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Immediately the FFWC began to widen its scope to include activities and projects on a state and national level. By 1903, the state and national organizations were joined into closer cooperation by the introduction of GFWC programs.

Early Projects

Early special projects of the clubwomen included forest conservation. During the administration of Mrs. Lawrence Haynes, a proposal to make a Forest Reservation on Paradise Key was endorsed; this later became the heart of Royal Palm State Park. By 1905-1906, a new Federation constitution was adopted and a Florida Federation pin was designed and accepted.

Early clubwomen worked on projects that led to the passage of the "Child Labor" bill, "Compulsory Education" bill, and "Fire Protection for Schools" bill; traveling libraries were established; and assistance was given to the Seminole Indians.

By 1914, the Florida Federation had branched into departments. A grant for the Royal Palm Park was secured and a lodge was built and equipped at the park. The FFWC was now divided into five sections or districts each led by a district vice-president. During the war years, members devoted their efforts to war related projects. The first *Florida Bulletin*, the official publication of the FFWC, was published in ten issues per year at a cost to the member of five cents per capita.

In November 1922, Junior clubwomen were adopted as a division of the senior membership with Junior members reporting separately on their activities. The *Florida Bulletin* was renamed the *Florida Clubwoman*. For the first time, the FFWC had extra money to invest. The Board of Directors placed it in government bonds for an Endowment Fund.

By 1930-1932, the FFWC had to face a shortage of funds due to the failure of one of its depositories; however, the Endowment Fund remained safe. Junior clubwomen gained separate status during the 1930-1932 administration. During the Depression years, the clubs continued in their sponsorship of libraries, helped with school problems, beautified communities, and assisted with welfare work.

The War Years

In the World War II years, federated clubwomen sewed for the Red Cross, were active in "Bundles for Britain", helped with bond sales, and planted victory gardens. Travel was difficult due to gasoline rationing but all districts held meetings. FFWC President Mrs. Ralph Austin Smith used borrowed gas coupons to enable her to visit clubs throughout the state.

In the late 1940's, clubs transferred their efforts from wartime to peacetime projects and concerns. The Royal State Park was presented to the United States government in a ceremony on December 6, 1947. At the ceremony attended by President Harry S Truman, Mrs. W. S. Jennings of the FFWC was cited for her foresight in securing the lands and the FFWC was cited for keeping the park open to the public. It became the Florida Everglades National Park. GFWC came to Florida for its convention for the first time in 1949 in Hollywood with Mrs. A. T. MacKay serving as FFWC President.

The 1950's

In 1950, sub-Junior groups of high school girls were formed and had their first state convention in Jacksonville in March. During the 1950's, the Arts Department became more active and contests for poetry and short stories were introduced. "Pennies for Pines" was begun as a state project and the first of many federation-sponsored forests was planted. In 1952, FFWC President Mrs. Walter Jones saw the need for the establishment of a permanent headquarters and had plans for such begun. By 1956, the headquarters building was completed and was dedicated in Lakeland, Florida. The reading society, Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO), was also established as a part of FFWC at this time. At the request of the Broward County clubs, an additional district was added to the federation structure, bringing the total to 13.

The 1960's and 1970's

During the 1960-1962 administration, an additional district was again added, bringing the total to the current 14 districts. The GFWC Convention was again held in Florida, this time in Miami Beach, in 1961. At the 1966 GFWC Convention, former FFWC President, Mrs. E. D. Pearce, was installed as GFWC President, the first from Florida.

In the 1970's, the sponsorship of Hacienda Girls Ranch in Melbourne, Florida, was adopted as a project. By 1972, funds had been raised to build the first cottage at the Ranch which was named "Pratt Cottage" in honor of FFWC President Mrs. J. C. Pratt. In 1976, a second cottage, the "King-Harris Cottage", was dedicated and named in honor of FFWC Presidents Mrs. Karl King and Mrs. E. Ross Harris.

In 1971, Trout Pond, the only recreational park for the handicapped in the United States at that time, was built by FFWC. By 1976, clubwomen had raised funds for a Tot Lot at the park for use by mentally retarded children. The playground was dedicated on April 17, 1976. In the late 1970's clubwomen focused their interests in support of such projects as International Special Olympics, the "Protect Every Child" state -wide immunization project, and shoplifting prevention projects.

The 1980's

The 1980's saw a continued wide variety of programs and projects offered to federation members. Many of the projects and programs involved the youth of Florida. Leadership development was stressed and encouraged. High school sophomores were sponsored to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminars (HOBY). Juniorettes were recognized as the future members and leaders of the federation, and leadership training was a high priority for the young women. In 1983, the Juniette category was officially accepted into the FFWC structure. Hacienda Girls Ranch was officially adopted as an ongoing project of the federation in April 1984. Funds were raised for the construction of a multi-purpose building, Rainbow Building/ Perkins Hall, in 1984. Child abuse prevention and awareness was also stressed.

Other major accomplishments of the 1980's included the furnishing of a suite and a conference room at the Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge; a "stay-free" facility for cancer treatment patients at Shand's Hospital in Gainesville, Florida; the furnishing of a playroom at the Hope Lodge in Miami; and the receipt of a \$200,000 plus grant to furnish the kindergarten children of Florida with materials concerning energy conservation in the "KEEP IT FLORIDA" - Offalot energy education program. During the 1986-1988 administration of FFWC President Vi Thornburg, federation clubwomen traveled to Tallahassee on the first "Legislative Days" trip to view the Florida legislative process.

In the late 1980's, the federation was forced to give up its headquarters building when its property lease was taken back by the City of Lakeland. During the term of Mrs. Jimmie Smith, however, a new lot was purchased; a building was designed, built, and dedicated debt free.

The 1990's

The 1990's also saw continuing community service performed by federated clubwomen. Arts were stressed in the public school curriculum; clubwomen rallied to help each other and others following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew and the "no name storm"; clubs supported local chapters of the March of Dimes, raised awareness of depression and other mental health disorders, and supported cancer research and drug abuse prevention projects. Membership recruitment and retention became important issues.

"Dollars for Delegates" was begun to aid in off-setting the expenses of delegates to state meetings, and a Membership Action Team (MAT) was established to encourage attendance at district meetings. In 1990-1992, the position of Director of Juniorette Clubs was established. In 1995, the letters GFWC were prefaced to the name, "Florida Federation of Women's Clubs", to help in club identity.

Other milestones in the 1990's included the installation of Jeannine Faubion of Florida as GFWC President, the Centennial Celebration of GFWC Florida on May 5-9, 1995, and raising sufficient funds to construct and furnish the Board Room of the Canine Companions for Independence South-eastern Training Center in Orlando. The Juniorette program continued to grow, and a Juniorette Annual Summer Meeting (JASM) was started to allow the young women to have a state-wide meeting separate from that of the women's clubs.

The New Century

GFWC Florida entered the new millennium under the direction of President Bunny Sandlin. Clubwomen turned their attention to heart disease awareness and sponsored cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes as well as provided monies and materials for Heart Camp for children at Boggy Creek Camp. With increasing costs of materials and other items, members voted to increase GFWC Florida dues from \$3.00 per capita to \$5.00 per capita, effective in 2003-2004.

Clubs responded to the tragedy of September 11, 2001, with contributions to a special Emergency Relief Fund of the GFWC for use by the Red Cross and to "Operation Firefighter", a fund to purchase a fire truck for the City of New York. GFWC Florida President Linda Boyd, 2002-2004, has selected as her President's Project the mentoring of youth. She has also issued a "President's Challenge" asking each member club of the state to select at least one "hands-on" project to meet the needs of its community. In 2002, the GFWC Florida also saw former GFWC Florida President Judy Lutz installed as GFWC President at the GFWC Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, and former GFWC Florida President Jimmie Smith installed as President of the GFWC Southern Region Conference. Florida hosted the 2004 GFWC Convention in Orlando with over 1,200 members world-wide in attendance.

Operation Smile

In 2004–2006, Charlyne Carruth's presidency spotlighted "Operation Smile". Members raised over \$300,000 during the two years and sponsored an "Operation Smile Mission" to the Philippines. During Mrs. Carruth's presidency, we also endured the 2004 year of the hurricanes with Charlie, Francis, Ivan, and Jean which affected every clubwoman in the state. Over thirty clubhouses were severely damaged and GFWC Florida members' homes were affected. GFWC Florida and members assisted in money and support to those hit by the devastation.

Pat Keel became GFWC Florida's President for 2006-2008, highlighting the American Cancer Society's Scholarship Program. Again, members gave willingly and over \$320,000 was raised for cancer survivors to continue their education. Pat's administration also produced the "1895 Society". This society raises money to preserve and protect GFWC Florida's history and headquarters. A new roof was installed at headquarters and the building was painted inside and out. This society continues today to provide funding for our headquarters.

GFWC President 2008-2010 Linda Dennis' focal point was "Heifer International" - giving hope to underprivileged countries by providing a hand, not a handout; by providing families with livestock; and providing education. Again, members dug deep and provided funding in excess of \$300,000 for the project. Linda continued to lead while fighting her battle with ovarian cancer. It was a great loss to GFWC Florida when Linda passed away in January 2011.

Ushering in New Technology

During 2010-2012, President Teddy Hulse chose membership, financial security and public relations as her project. Pushing the use of technology,

the website was used to the fullest. All materials previously printed, including the "GFWC Florida Clubwoman," were now available online. Workshops were provided on computer skills; dues, remittance, ways and means merchandise, and registration for meetings were payable via "Paypal." Seven "Days of Service" were the highlight of the administration, allowing the members to be part of hands-on projects. Money was raised for a headquarters bathroom remodel, and new front doors and new furniture updated the look of headquarters.

In April 2012, Pat Zazzarino was installed as GFWC Florida President. Her project was providing college scholarships for deserving high school graduates and assisting with our schools. In her two years, twenty scholarships were awarded for not only graduating high school seniors but also women returning to school. During this administration, a complete bath- room remodeling of our headquarters was completed making it ADA accessible. These two years marked the loss of past presidents Jimmie Smith and Vi Thornburg and the loss of Phyllis Wood the Federation's beloved Parliamentarian.

In the 2014-2016 administration, President Carole Weaver chose Canine Companions for In- dependence, focusing on "the wounded warrior." The 2014-2016 administration raised \$330,000.00 for Canine Companions. During this time the Headquarters building located at 4444 Florida National Drive, Lakeland, Florida, was given a fresh updating and redecorating. It is truly a new fresh headquarters ready to serve our GFWC Florida Federation for many years to come.

During the 2016-2018 administration of President Mary Powell, the footprint of GFWC Florida Headquarters was enlarged by the purchase of the adjacent lot, thus enhancing the value of the property located at 4444 Florida National Drive in Lakeland. President Powell's focus was on renewing support for the girls and programs at Hacienda Girls Ranch, making it "A Better World for Every Girl." She was involved in the rededication of Royal Palm State Park as part of the 100th Anniversary of its formation in 1916, and efforts continued to have May Mann Jennings admitted to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. The Executive Committee worked diligently to support clubwomen across the State after the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma in 2017.

During the 2018-2020 administration, Florida President Sharon Oliphant chose "Smiles Across the Miles" as her theme. Operation Smile is a longstanding, non-profit organization that has been helping children diagnosed with a cleft palate for almost four decades. Their vision and mission statement is "every child suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate deserves exceptional surgical care." A fundraising goal of \$250,000 was accomplished and a GFWC Florida sponsored mission trip with a few lucky participants will be organized for the 2020 year.

Our Gifts of Service

Over 121 years since its inception, the members of the GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs are still about the business of identifying the needs of the local community and then working to meet those needs through community service projects. As former GFWC Florida and GFWC President Jeannine Faubion wrote,

"The history of the state would be incomplete without the immeasurable contributions of the thousands of club members, state officers and chairmen whose vision of a better community and state has been made into a reality by their untiring, unselfish work through the years...The gifts of service which they have freely given helped to make Florida what it is today."

We are Living the Volunteer Spirit