**GFWC Florida Resolution 001**

**Induct May Mann Jennings into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame**

**Whereas***,* the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame was created by Florida Statute in 1982 to honor women who made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all Florida citizens. These women are immortalized on an honorary wall in the halls of the Florida Capitol.

**Whereas**,  the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame is overseen by the [Florida Commission on the Status of Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_Commission_on_the_Status_of_Women) (FCSW), a [nonpartisan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonpartisan) board created in 1991 to study and make recommendations to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature on issues affecting women.

**Whereas**, May Austin Elizabeth Mann Jennings (April 25, 1872 – April 25, 1963) was the First Lady of Florida as wife of Florida’s 18th Governor, William Sherman Jennings. She was one of Florida’s most powerful and influential women, long before women had the right to vote.

**Whereas**, May joined the Jacksonville Woman's Club and the Springfield Improvement Association, both affiliate members of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) and GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC Florida)[[1]](#footnote-1), in 1905. She was elected president of GFWC Florida in 1914 and served as First Vice President of GFWC from 1920-1924.

**Whereas**, as GFWC Florida President, May successfully approached the Florida Legislature about creating Royal Palm State Park, to preserve the area from fast-encroaching real-estate development, and worked with GFWC Florida to fund, maintain, and develop the park for 32 years, until it became part of Everglades National Park.

**Whereas**, following the dedication of Everglades National Park in 1947, the Florida Times Union called the park a "permanent monument to the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs" and stated that "all who are familiar with the work of Mrs. Jennings will agree that a large measure of credit is due to her determination and persistence which at times bridged wide gaps of disappointment in the progress of the program.”

**Whereas**, the Royal Palms State Park, and subsequently the Everglades National Park, is a unique ecosystem now heralded around the world, and its preservation is truly a contribution that has “improved the quality of life for both Florida and the nation” and that preservation is accredited in very large part to the decades-long work of May Mann Jennings, FFWC President 1914-1917.

**RESOLVED**, that GFWC Florida submit an application to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW), in the Florida Attorney General’s office, to nominate May Mann Jennings to the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame.

**RESOLVED**, that in the event May Mann Jennings is not selected as a top ten finalist in the preceding year, GFWC Florida resubmit an application by the applicable deadline set forth by the FCSW. [[2]](#footnote-2)

**RESOLVED**, that GFWC clubs throughout Florida are requested to contact the commissioners serving on the FCSW in support of the nomination of May Mann Jennings to the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame during the initial selection process until the top ten is selected. If selected by FCSW as a top ten finalist, clubs are requested to contact the office of the Florida Governor as well as state legislators requesting that they contact the office of the Florida Governor, in support of the nomination of May Mann Jennings to the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame. Such support shall continue annually until she is inducted.

Adopted April 6, 2019

Amended September 26, 2020

# GFWC Florida Resolution 002

**Single-use Plastics- Education Campaign, Partnership with Plastics- Free Initiative and Voluntary Elimination of use**

**WHEREAS,** The GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC FL) has historically been diligent in its efforts to preserve the beautiful environment that supports the tourism industry which is so vital to the economy of the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Skip the Straw campaign, 90% of the trash in the ocean is made from plastic which pollutes most marine habitats including deep sea, coral reefs, beaches and rivers; and harms sea life with about 90% of seabirds and 30% of turtles having plastic found in their stomachs; and

**WHEREAS, single-use plastics**  are in most cases not compostable or biodegradable, but instead photodegrade into smaller pieces which are then ingested by terrestrial and marine life and can eventually make its way into the human food chain and water supply generating a serious threat to our natural environment, marine and wildlife and to human health; and

**WHEREAS,** a **GFWC FL** resolution supporting reduction and elimination of single-use plastics aligns with GFWC Resolution No. 011-240 Protection of Oceans that recognizes the need for collaborative efforts to preserve, protect and enhance oceans and establishing goals concerning its environmental, ecological and socioeconomic value; and

**WHEREAS,** it can be acknowledged that many county and city businesses have taken affirmative steps to reduce or eliminate single-use, non-recyclable plastics and that these and other proactive efforts to reduce pollution by plastics are encouraged; and

**WHEREAS,** entering into a collaborative partnership with the Plastics-Free Initiative, representing multiple nonprofit organizations, including the Woman’s Club of Coconut Grove, businesses and residents, throughout the State of Florida is mutually beneficial.

#  RESOLVED, that GFWC FL make the education of the public and businesses regarding the harm to terrestrial and marine life created by single-use plastic products in general a statewide focus area of the Environment Community Service Program.

**RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL create a collaborative partnership with the Plastics-Free Initiative and encourage individual club partnerships.

**RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL complete a review of purchasing policies. with the purpose to limit or eliminate the use of single-use plastics for GFWC FL sponsored operations and events, except as may be necessary to meet public safety needs.

**RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL:

* Encourage all GFWC FL clubs and their members to limit or eliminate the use of single-use plastics and consider substituting alternative biodegradable items for internal and external club functions, and
* Encourage GFWC FL members to limit or eliminate personal use of single-use plastics.

 **RESOLVED,** that GFWC FL support state legislation to allow local municipalities in the State of Florida to regulate their own local communities in an effort to alleviate the harms caused by single-use plastics.

Adopted September 26, 2020

1. Historically at the time May Mann Jennings was President GFWC Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC Florida) was known as Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs (FFWC). However, as GFWC Florida is the current name of the organization, it has been substituted for FFWC in the resolution. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The application is automatically resubmitted by the FCSW if the nominee was a top ten finalist in the preceding year. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)