



GFWC FLORIDA: Narrative for Club Reporting (Click in gray box and type)

Official Name of Club: GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF THE SISTERHOOD

District Number: 18

Number of Members: 95

Community Service Program or Advancement Plan: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Women in the Military

1. Athena House for homeless women veterans was awarded a check \$375 along with donations of clothing and personal hygiene items.
2. Care Christmas Stockings for women currently serving in the military were packed and mailed in time for the holidays. The donated items were personal care products, mainly hygiene and personal items. The stockings were sealed using a black knit hat to contain the items and as an extra gift.

Disaster Relief

3. Remittance Form donation to the Florida emergency disaster fund.
4. The chair for Civic Engagement & Outreach submitted three extra very interesting and informative articles for the newsletter. One was about summertime safety with specific reference to pool use by children and hands on CPR. Another concerned Hurricane Safety and preparedness during National Disaster Preparedness month. The third reminded us to change our clocks and change our batteries in smoke detectors plus to know our escape routes in case of fire at home. These were excellent articles that were well received by the members.

Supporting our Troops

5. Club Member wrote over 4000 Christmas cards from the club to the troops overseas. Cards were placed in packages for the troops. Club members shop the after Christmas sales for cards. The goal for next year is 5000.
6. Military stickers were given to our Sunshine committee to attach to mailings to our troops.
7. A group of club members carpooled to the local Support Our Troops packing office. Many boxes are packed with delicious items and other goodies for the military serving overseas. This is a fun filled morning for our members followed by lunch.

Veteran's Support

8. Members joined the residents and staff of Lopez Nursing Home in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the home opening. STARS, snacks and warm wishes were shared with the residents, staff and visitors. It was an honor to be included in this special celebration.
9. A member participated in a Day of Service at Fall Board and went to the Fisher House for Veterans where she made cards for the residents and made a donation on behalf of the club.

10. Our STARS for Veterans program has continued to grow this past year. The club members used embroidered stars from worn flags along with a message, both inserted in a plastic case so the star can be kept in a pocket without fear of it getting wet or ruined. The saying is "I am part of our American flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that You are not forgotten" Thank you from GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's club. Stars have been given to family and friends, veterans at the Honor Flights, nursing homes, hospitals and currently serving military. Our members even take them on vacation and hand them out to veterans and serving military that they meet in restaurants! Over 400 STARS were distributed in 2019.
11. Our members have attended three returning Honor Flights at St. Petersburg Airport. Flags were waved, hands shaken, and star packets distributed. It was a very emotional moment for everyone.
12. Funds have been reserved with the aim of sending one of our members as a guardian on an Honor flight in the near future. Members had to write a letter explaining why they would be the best person to receive this. A member has now been chosen and will have their name submitted for a flight next year.
13. A group of our members attended the Veteran's Day Memorial Service in Tampa.
14. Club members participated in the Wreaths Across America event. Each member laid multiple wreaths on veterans' graves, each member reading aloud the name of the veteran to honor them. A donation was made for the purchase of 10 wreaths.

Support of Local Veteran's Nursing Home

15. Club members bought, donated and numbered over 400 bottles to be used for the Tombola game held at our annual Arts and Crafts Show. It's a crazy game of chance; numbers are drawn to determine if you win a prize and if so, the prize you get. Prizes could be anything from shampoo to champagne. The customers loved it and many came back for some more chances.
16. Members presented \$2,000.00 raised by the Tombola event to the veterans residing in Lopez Nursing Home. This funding goes to the veterans for their enjoyment.
17. Club members wrote Christmas cards and other greeting cards that were given to the Lopez Nursing Home residents.
18. Club members attended each of the nine monthly bingo evenings at the Lopez Nursing Home. This is a lovely evening to interact with our local veterans; they enjoy sharing their stories. The bingo players are excited to win their dollar bill.
19. In June and July our members bring our Junioresettes to the bingo evenings at Lopez. The girls bring strawberry shortcakes to be served after the games. They all have a great time.

First Responders

20. We purchased, assembled and delivered 6 beautiful baskets containing a selection of fruit, snacks and energy bars to local firefighters to say thank you for their services throughout the year. They were touched that we showed our appreciation in this way.
21. Gift boxes and donuts were delivered to six local fire stations in remembrance on 9-11. We are getting to be popular guests at these fire stations!

Scouts and Civil Air Patrol

22. Boy Scout Troop 12 was a tremendous help to us throughout the year. They are the setup, clean up and pack it up crew at many of our events. Four members attended the Boy Scout meeting in January and presented them with a check for \$500. It was good to present this check in front of the entire troop so they all hear how appreciated they are.
23. A donation of \$200 was made to the North Tampa Civil Air Patrol Squadron to thank them for their help at various events.

Community Participation

24. Members assisted with the placement of American flags on the veterans' graves at the Land O'Lakes and Jewish cemetery on Memorial Day.
25. Many club members took part in the 9/11 Patriot Day Flag Waving event held in front of the Old Lutz School. One passer by actually parked his vehicle and came over to us to say how much he appreciated us acknowledging this event in this way.
26. Money was donated to Heritage Park Community Center to purchase candy for their Safe Trunk or Treat Halloween event.
27. Heritage Park Community Center held an Easter Egg Hunt for the local children. We provided the plastic eggs there were filled with candy and coins.

Guv'na Race

28. The Club voted to sponsor a member of our club as the Guv'na candidate. Multiple events, such as bingo, a tea party, Fun and Games event, Brew Town Burger eat and donate and an Indoor Picnic were all organized by Club members in support of our candidate.
29. \$50 was donated to our Lutz Guv'na candidate to kick start her campaign. One of our artistic members made a diamond shaped prize out of fifty \$1 bills.
30. Members put on their green club shirts and joined in the fun Guv'na debate at the start of the Guv'na race. Our club asked many planted questions while cheering and booing the answers.
31. The amount of money raised by each Guv'na candidate is totaled on 4th July and the winner is announced. Following this, the money raised is distributed between many local charities and service groups. Six members attended the Grant Distribution meeting. We were delighted that our candidate raised a total of \$2019.90 and from the total our club was given a \$1500 grant. We were thrilled.

4th of July

32. Club members organized, managed and sponsored the Annual 4th July Celebration for Lutz including attending regular meetings with members of the county and other service organizations in the community.
33. Our support the day of 4th of July event included painting the parade route and 5k race markers, setting up the emcee and DJ, and renting a fleet of golf carts to help attendees during the day.
34. The newsletter editor for our club put in a little over time designing and printing the programs handed out to parade spectators.
35. The sweetest and coolest job on July 4th is the set up and judging of the Annual Cake and Pie Contest. We are now on the 3rd generation of bakers and this year they started at age 4; it really has become a family tradition to enter a cake or pie in the contest.
36. Vendor and food booths were available for rent from our club for the event. The Boy Scouts were on hand to help with the set up and to show vendors to their spots.
37. Our Club purchased candy to be thrown to the children lining the parade route.
38. We had our own entry in the parade with members riding on golf carts decorated to the extreme in red, white and blue. Two other members walked in front carrying our huge banner showing our pride in participating in this great event, which draws thousands each year.

Miscellaneous

39. Club Held program on Kitchen and fire safety. A first responder gave demonstrations on fire extinguisher use and other helpful tips.
40. Members donated items and constructed two beautiful baskets for the luncheons.
41. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America is led by a member at all club meetings.

42. Public Issues Committee held Quarterly meetings.
43. Member attended Safety Bear Workshop to stuff bears for children who go to our police stations. The bears are given for emotional support.
44. Facebook chair posted information on Gold Star Mother's Day, National Anthem Day, Purple Heart Day, Vietnam Veteran's Day, Pasco Sheriff's K-9 Awards, New Pasco 911 System, Take Back Day for Expired Medicines, Disaster Relief for Grand Bahama's Woman's Club, and Hurricane Preparedness Tips.
45. The committee voted to support the Sulfa Springs Museum and Heritage center in memory of a lady who had given much support to our club in the past.
46. A committee member and a support member donated two lovely flag stands, one for each community center.
47. Members attended the opening ceremony for four Habitat for Humanity homes and donated eight fire extinguishers as welcome gifts.
48. Committee held a Shot Day at Walgreens for Shot@Life. Oh, the PAIN!!!
49. Committee organized a Heifer Day encouraging members to donate to Heifer. With funds donated that day and a donation from the club, Heifer received \$250.
50. Operation Smile benefited from 2 days of sewing. The club sewed blankets, smile bags and gowns for the children receiving surgery. Every child needs a snuggle blanket.

GFWC Participation

51. The committee led the Program for the November General Meeting. The theme was kitchen and fire safety. Pasco County Fire Rescue Training personnel assisted in hands on demonstrations for our members and taught us how to use a fire extinguisher in a home fire setting. Training was well received by the attendees especially when prizes of fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were given out.
52. Club members held quarterly CSP meetings to plan for the upcoming activities.
53. A donation of \$50 was given to The Florida Holocaust Museum in Tampa in memory of one of our Emeritus members who passed at the beginning of 2019.
54. Baldomero Lopez Nursing Home for Veterans was given \$50 in memory of the husband of one of our members.

Public Positions Held

55. One of our members holds the position of Mayor Pro tempore.
56. A member is the commissioner for Parks and Recreation.
57. The position of chair of the Pasco County Library Board is held by one of our members.

Poll Workers

58. Three members worked for polling stations during the local elections in two different counties.