



Highlights of 2020 Reporting

Clubs across Florida engaged in Legislation Public Policy and Resolutions:

- Participation in GFWC Legislative Action Center
- Support of GFWC Legislative Priorities
- Support of GFWC Florida continuing resolutions
 - May Mann Jennings
 - Single Use Plastics
- Support of 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment "Women Get The Vote"
- Participation in poll work
- Support of candidates forums
- Elected/Appointed local board positions
- Participation in get out the vote projects

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](#) (FCSW), a [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, in 1905. She was elected president of GFWC Florida in 1914 and served as First Vice President of GFWC from 1920-1924.

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.

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

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



***Commemorating
The Gift to the Nation
Of
ROYAL PALMS STATE PARK
Four Thousand Acres
Dedicated to the People
November 25, 1916
And the nucleus of
EVERGLADES
NATIONAL PARK
The Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs
October 10, 1947***