

Fall 2014

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The GFWC GLR Communiqué



“Sharing the Volunteer Spirit”



THE DRAGONFLYS ARE FLYING!

By GFWC Great Lakes President Tric Heepe (IN)



The first Conference of this Administration is over and the

members have returned to their clubs, rejuvenated and with new ideas to share. Thanks to Fran Leonard, Michigan State President and her extremely efficient conference co-chairmen, Renee Horist and Chris Burns, we had a successful meeting. I have read every evaluation sheet twice and am looking at ways to continue what you liked and to improve on what you did not like. While some requests are not as easy as others, such as the huge expense of adding Audio Visual presentations vs. putting all handouts in the registration folders, I am taking all comments to heart and trying not to take them personally. I hope to again have a short Sunday morning session. This will allow time for the hands-on workshops a majority of you requested.

I want to again give praise to the Great Lakes and the GFWC Chairmen and committee members. While they were given a VERY short time-frame to make their presentations, their presentations were personal, concise, and informative. Let's get real. Even Resolutions were interesting! Primary praise goes to Babs Condon, GFWC International President and GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea. They are examples for us all. Choose the right people for the right jobs and trust them to do it well. Don't micromanage, have faith. The reports of the State Presidents and State Directors were informative and very clever. I want to thank you for using

the dragonfly as your theme. I also want to thank the Past GFWC GLR Presidents for their support! It is wonderful being able to count on someone who has done this job for words of wisdom. I want to add Barbara Conaway and Doreen Habben to the list of those who deserve praise. They kept me in line (not an easy task in itself) but also anticipated problems and took whatever steps were needed to make as many happy as possible.

While we are back in our home clubs, ordering flowers, cards, or nuts to make the money we need to use for our many projects, we are looking at the program books, studying our Program Partners and finalizing projects. Pat Quintero, our Regional Sew Much Comfort representative, was a very popular speaker at Conference. As you look at ways to help our service men and women, please remember SMC. Go online to GFWC.ORG for the most current information and for ideas. There is no excuse for members to be bored or tired of the same old projects. There are hundreds of ideas on the Website. Please also check out the GFWC GLR Facebook page! (GFWC Great Lakes Region)

As you prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas with your families and friends, please remember those less fortunate. There are so many in the local domestic violence and homeless shelters. Call them to see if they need food or to see if you can donate small Christmas gifts for the children to give their mothers and vice versa. A small investment can yield so much joy.

Have a wonderful Holiday season and please, call or email me if I can do anything for you or your club.

A special shout out to the Woman's Club of Mingo Junction, Ohio!

Tric



2014-2016 GFWC Great Lakes Region Officers' Reports

Since the June 2014 GFWC Great Lakes Region Board of Directors meeting, this officer has been very busy preparing for this Annual Region Conference. She made a site visit to Frankenmuth in August and met with the Conference Co-Chairman, Great Lakes Region Vice-president Lin Wilken, Michigan President Fran Leonard and hotel contact, Shannon.

This officer attended the GFWC 2014 Board of Director's Meeting in August in Linthicum, Maryland, where planning sessions were held with GFWC officers and the Region Presidents. Under the leadership of Sheila Shea, we shared ideas, best practices, and gave each other moral support!

There have been multiple communications with the Conference Co-chairman, Renee and Chris as we planned this Region Conference. There were many communications with GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea, the GLR Executive Committee, the GLR Board of Directors, and the GFWC chairmen and committee members from within the Great Lakes Region, as well as all the GFWC Region Presidents.

The Call for this Conference was distributed at the 2014 Region Banquet in Phoenix, Arizona. Additional Calls and Reminders were emailed and posted on the GLR Facebook page. Invitations were mailed to the GFWC International Past Presidents and Past Directors of Junior Clubs from this region and the GLR Past Presidents.

This officer thanks everyone who has worked so hard to make this Conference a success. This officer also thanks you for the opportunity to serve as the GFWC Great Lakes Region President this administration.



Tric Heepe (IN)
GFWC Great Lakes Region President

Madame GFWC GLR President, Madame GFWC International President, members and guests,

As President Heepe requested....just one thing. As GFWC GLR Vice President, I was installed in Arizona with specific instructions to perform the duties of the President in her absence, assist the President in carrying out the purpose of the Region;; serve as Chairman in charge of arrangements for Commercial Exhibitors at the Annual Meeting; serve as chairman of state reports at the region meeting and be responsible for purchasing a gift for the outgoing President.

Now I've taken all these instructions to heart...not my one thing. I drove to Frankenmuth for a very special weekend site visit with President Heepe, President Leonard, Conference Chairman Renee and Chris and the ever charming Franz. I've been in regular communication with President Heepe...even flew with her to and from the August GFWC Board Meeting. See I am working hard to make sure President Heepe is never absent. I followed her instructions in planning the flag ceremonies and have tried to corral some pretty

talented state leaders on her behalf. Then of course I mailed out 36 letters to potential commercial vendors...shop our vendors and "buy" "buy" "buy".



But the "ONE THING" I've done all by myself, so far, is to search out a proper gift for a dear friend. I think I have it in sight...will let you know how I'm doing at our next region conference.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the greatest region in GFWC as the Vice President of the 2014-2016 Administration.

Lin Wilken (OH)
GFWC Great Lakes Region Vice President

Since we met in Chandler, this officer has discharged her final duties as Treasurer by collecting and depositing money from our banquet at the GFWC International Convention in Chandler, Arizona, paying the final bills from the previous administration and presenting the records to the audit committee for examination. She then transferred the financial records to the incoming treasurer.

Since being installed as secretary of the Great Lakes Region at our banquet in Arizona, this officer has taken the minutes of this administration's first Board of Directors meeting and forwarded them to a committee appointed to approve the minutes. This concludes my report

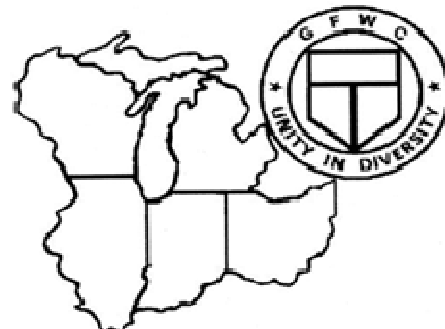


Paula Schlice (WI)
GFWC Great Lakes Region Secretary

This officer has received all the Treasurer's records. The books have been audited and reconciled to the bank statements. This officer has performed all duties requested.

Patricia Heitman (IL)
GFWC Great Lakes Region Treasurer





Sharing the News

By the GFWC GLR Correspondents

We have much to share because we have been busy!



We published our first issue of our newly named newsletter *The GFWC GLR Communiqué* in late summer. Issues are quarterly & they contain important information from all FIVE of our GREAT states. In the first issue, among other things, we had wrap-ups of the 2012-14 administrations & the kick-offs for the new administrations. We will always hear from our Region President & from our GLR sisters serving GFWC.

We are proud to announce in this current issue we have debuted a new series "**News From Around Our Great Lakes**" & it features our five GFWC LEADS Graduates. If you have an idea for a Region wide relevant article contact YOUR state's Correspondent.

At our Region Conference last month our GFWC GLR Facebook Page had 136 likes &

we set a goal of 170 likes by November 3rd. Our GREAT GLR club-women came through ahead of schedule and **we had 174 by October 22**. As of today we have 176. WAY TO GO!!!



If you have not "liked" us, or invited your fellow club members to "like" us, just search for our **GFWC Great Lakes Region page** and join our Facebook family.

We now have our own email address so you can send us your pictures from conferences, conventions, & even events in your states. We want to SHARE them on our Facebook page or publish them in our newsletter.



gfwcgreatlakes@gmail.com

If you have ideas for articles in future issues please share with YOUR state's Correspondent!

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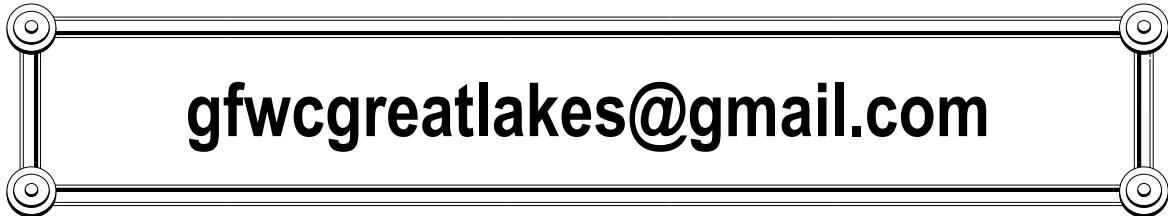
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We look forward to hearing from YOU!!!!



Facts and Myths about Dragonflies

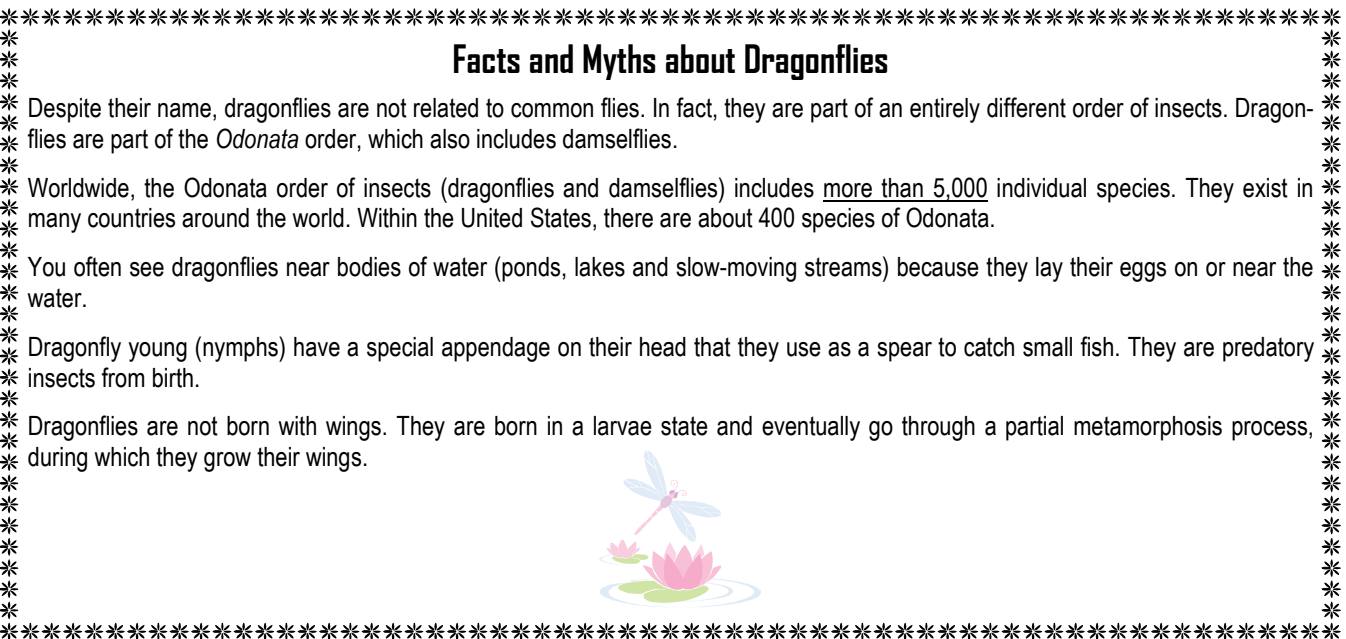
Despite their name, dragonflies are not related to common flies. In fact, they are part of an entirely different order of insects. Dragonflies are part of the *Odonata* order, which also includes damselflies.

Worldwide, the Odonata order of insects (dragonflies and damselflies) includes more than 5,000 individual species. They exist in many countries around the world. Within the United States, there are about 400 species of Odonata.

You often see dragonflies near bodies of water (ponds, lakes and slow-moving streams) because they lay their eggs on or near the water.

Dragonfly young (nymphs) have a special appendage on their head that they use as a spear to catch small fish. They are predatory insects from birth.

Dragonflies are not born with wings. They are born in a larvae state and eventually go through a partial metamorphosis process, during which they grow their wings.



"News From Around Our GREAT Lakes" Experiences of the 2014 GFWC Great Lakes Region's GFWC LEADS Graduates

Effective Communication

By GFWC Illinois' LEADS Graduate Carol Jablonski (IL)

There are so many components to being an effective leader. To me, communications to the leader and from the leader are critical for the success of a group, club, company, or organization like GFWC Illinois. Let me add an adjective before communications: effective. I want to make sure that the message I am sending is the same message that the recipient is receiving. I often will start an information-filled email, put it aside for a while, open it back up and read it all over again. "That's not what I meant", is what my brain is saying to me after that first review. Then the editor in



me comes out and away I go, working on making sure that the information I am trying to convey to my reader is the same information that she will understand. Not only do communications have to be clear, they have to be timely. If you want to be respected, then you have to respect others' time.

Prior to attending the LEADS Seminar this past June, I was asked to bring along one line about the woman who has had the greatest influence on you. My answer was: organized, unruffled, ready to guide, ready to change. My one-liner did not describe just one woman, but at least ten that I have met and worked with through my affiliation with a GFWC club, our district and the GFWC Illinois Board of Directors.

"Prior to attending the LEADS Seminar this past June, I was asked to bring along one line about the woman who has had the greatest influence on you."

It's a DRY Heat

By GFWC Indiana's LEADS Graduate Carol Govert-Moreno (IN)

My name is Carol Govert-Moreno. I originally joined GFWC/IFC ESOR REGIONAL READERS of Highland, Indiana to which I was recently elected to the office of Treasurer, and I'm also a part of the birth of GFWC/IFC WOMEN IN ACTION, Hobart, Indiana where I hold the office of Vice-President.

The LEADS Seminar was very informative and had excellent organizers and program.

GFWC Second Vice President Marian St. Clair did a great presentation on speech writing...only thing was she didn't teach us what to do if the presenter in front of you said your same speech almost word for word, including having a recording of "Happy" on your phone.



All of the presentations were great. GFWC Leadership Chairman T Jablonski and GFWC Leadership Committee Member Trisha Schafer kept things moving and very interesting. Subjects included conflict resolutions, time management, GFWC resources, material and assistance; GFWC policies, procedures, and parliamentary law; tips and techniques for pursuing leadership opportunities.

All of us appreciated GFWC International President Mary Ellen Laister taking time out of her busy schedule to present us with our certificates, bracelets, and photos.

Great fellowship
New friendship
Informative
and Fun....

The 2014 GFWC LEADS Graduates are now club-women from all over the country with more GFWC KNOWLEDGE.

THANK YOU GFWC!

**"Great fellowship
New friendship
Informative
and Fun...."**

You Can Do It Excitement

By GFWC Michigan's Shellee Behrend LEADS Graduate (MI)

Being a member of GFWC has been a very self fulfilling mission of volunteering for worthy causes in my community, district, state, and international. For this reason I had submitted paperwork to be chosen for GFWC LEADS 2014. I was honored and represented the State of Michigan at the GFWC LEADS seminar held at the GFWC International Convention in Chandler, Arizona.



For those who are unfamiliar with what GFWC LEADS is, it is Leadership Education and Development Seminar. This seminar is packed with information, resources, and many talented leaders to help with training. GFWC LEADS help prominent women in developing leadership skills to rise in the ranks of GFWC and in their personal lives.

One candidate from each state attended the seminar. This was a day of fun skill building and networking. I have met some wonderful career and volunteer driven women from around the states that have been a powerful influence for me. There were so many great ideas and suggestions around the room, I felt, well, empowered with the overwhelming amount of "you can do it" excitement. Everyone has each others e-mail and all the women are so eager to help out at anytime.

After leaving the seminar I ran into my State President Fran Leonard and First Vice President Donna Brown. I was so excited to tell them how much I was honored to be there. I truly felt on top of the world and ready to do anything I set my mind to. This was a far cry to my initial acceptance speech at the State convention where I could barely speak in the microphone and wanted to run for my life! But that's what you get when you have so many positive influenced women in one room.

The experience from the GFWC LEADS has set me on the course of speaking to prominent community members and volunteer organizations for the good of GFWC. I personally feel my club has also been influenced from the projects we have taken on and the positive attitude of us all. I strongly encourage everyone to fill out the papers for GFWC LEADS. You will be amazed at what you learn and your personal self worth.

Renewed Excitement in GFWC

By GFWC Ohio's LEADS Graduate Renee Maiorca (OH)

"A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader; a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves" – *Anonymous*.



This past June at the GFWC Leadership, Education and Development Seminar (GFWC LEADS) held during the International Convention in Chandler, Arizona I learned that we all can become Great Leaders. This seminar helps you to develop your leadership skills. But, much more than that, it also ignites a

REAL PASSION within you for GFWC and all of the AMAZING things that we can accomplish when we work together.

During GFWC LEADS I had the privilege of meeting LEADS candidates from 46 other states and had the opportunity to talk with many of them. We talked about concerns that we all have, and it seems that MEMBERSHIP, both how to attract new members and how to keep the ones that we have is one of the biggest challenges facing all of our clubs.

We learned how to develop our presentation skills during GFWC LEADS, and how to put our best foot forward. One of the keys to inspiring others is EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION. Both written and oral communication is important to a good leader. This is probably one of my greatest challenges.

We talked about Conflict Resolution and how to deal with various situations in our clubs. A conflict is more than just a disagreement, it's a situation in which one or both parties perceive a threat (whether or not this treat is actually real). Conflicts continue to fester when ignored but when dealt with conflicts can be an opportunity for growth.

During GFWC LEADS we had a session on Protocol and Parliamentary Procedures. This session was a wonderful introduction on how to correctly run a meeting, and taught us how to ensure that things are run fairly during our club meetings.

A good leader also knows how to collaborate so we had a session on our GFWC partners. The CEO from HOBY gave a wonderful presentation and talked about the importance of our Partnership with them.

Last, but certainly not least, a good leader also must know how to embrace change. To this end we talked about how technology is changing our clubs, and ways to effectively utilize this technology.

My experience at GFWC LEADS was truly amazing and I am so thankful for the opportunity that I was given. I would encourage everyone who can to apply for GFWC LEADS this coming year. It will give you a renewed excitement in GFWC and help you to understand the true meaning of the "GFWC SPIRIT".

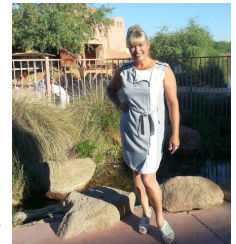
Remember, as Grouch Marx said "Only one man in a thousand is a leader of men – the other 999 follow women." Each of you women CAN become an Inspiring Leader.

"News From Around Our GREAT Lakes" Experiences of the 2014 GFWC Great Lakes Region's GFWC LEADS Graduates

Grow and Shine as a Leader

By GFWC Wisconsin's LEADS Graduate Abby Lorenz (WI)

What an honor it was to be selected to represent the State of Wisconsin at the GFWC LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar) in Chandler, AZ this past June at the 2014 GFWC Annual International Convention. Right by my side the entire trip was Kristine Huss, former Rolling Hills District President. She took this photo of me the day of the GFWC LEADS Seminar. I was so excited to be there representing Wisconsin!



Upon arrival to Arizona we enjoyed a visit to Butterfly Wonderland, an amazing museum with a live butterfly atrium, shopping, dining, and sight seeing. On Opening Night of the convention we enjoyed a fantastic State Dinner which featured a local Indian Tribal Dance Demonstration. Very fitting for Arizona!

The GFWC LEADS Seminar was excellent! We had 46 women in attendance from around our nation. The seminar featured several guest speakers who touched on a variety of topics such as writing tips, technology, Protocol and Parliamentary Procedures, presentation skills, facilitating and conflict resolution and more. It was a day I will not soon forget!

One of the highlights for me personally was meeting our GFWC International President, Mary Ellen Laister. She was so poised and articulate. Truly a natural leader!



Upon my safe return after being selected to represent the State of Wisconsin at GFWC LEADS I had a new confidence and spirit to share the information I learned with those back home. I gave a PowerPoint presentation about public speaking at a Mini LEADS seminar at the GFWC-Wisconsin Fall Workshop and wrote an article about my experience for the Rolling Hills District Newsletter. It also inspired me to continue to promote and be on a quest for next year's GFWC LEADS candidate so the tradition can be passed along encouraging more Wisconsin women to become great leaders.

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." ~ Jack Welch

Living in the Great Lakes Region with its four seasons and wide variety of outdoor activities has made me a strong, confident woman; ever-changing and continually growing in mind, body and spirit. Being a Club Woman allows me to follow my heart, give back to our community to those in need, and make lifelong friendships. I do this while keeping a healthy balance in my daily life and by embracing new opportunities that come my way. Becoming a GFWC LEADS graduate has motivated me to embrace life's challenges, become a better communicator and to continue to volunteer and share my talents where most needed. May you all strive to be the best you can be in your life journey, and continue to grow and shine as leaders!



What's the BUZZ???

By GFWC Membership Committee Members Corky Nosek (OH) and Linda Crish (OH)

What's the BUZZ??? Take the GFWC Membership Team's Challenge and...

BEE ONE, (a motivated club member)

Bring One, (a new member)

BY 1/1! (That's January 1, 2015)

In the spring of 2014, the GFWC Membership Team conducted a survey of the members of our GFWC organization. The survey concluded on May 1, 2014 and there were 4337 member responses.

The results of the survey pointed out that we had **three big stingers!**

1. Members leave our organization within the first five years.
2. Members leave because of a lack of club leadership and because of unkind members.
3. Members leave because there is a lack of younger membership.

Unfortunately, 63% of our members do leave within the first 5 years and 19% leave in years 6-10!

As a result of these responses the committee recognizes the need for us, as club members to:

Bee attentive to Members, Bee mentors to new members, Bee collaborative and work together, Bee welcoming, Bee a friend, and please, Bee caring.

The GFWC Membership Team found that the survey also revealed why many members leave. They gave reasons such as financial obligations, family commitments, lack of child care, time of meetings, aging club members, lack of diversity and meetings without purpose.

However, the number one reason, (19%) was **lack of leadership** and the #2 reason, (15%) was **unkind members**.

The survey pointed out that most women in GFWC are 61-70 years old with 37% falling into that age bracket. 26% of the survey respondents were ages 71-80.

Here are some hints to share to help our membership grow. As club members we can each *Bee* on Time, *Bee* a Leader, *Bee* a Communicator, *Bee* Caring, *Bee* looking for new members, *BEE* positive, *Bee* Helpful, and *Bee* Energetic!

Let's hope that every member will take the GFWC Membership Challenge and...

**BEE ONE,
BRING ONE,
(and do it)
BY 1/1!**

YES! We all CAN do this.... and then we will help build our GFWC hive by January 1, 2015 as we:

Make Members Like Honey....and that's the BUZZ FOR TODAY!

For a copy of the full report and handout OR if you have questions about GFWC Membership you can contact committee members Corky Nosek and Linda Crish at:
corkynosek@aol.com Linda.Crish@raymondjames.com



3 BIG STINGERS

1. Members leaving in the 1st 5 years
2. Lack of Club Leadership & Unkind Members
3. Lack of Younger Members

OUCH!



Bee the one to take the membership challenge...

1 + 1 = 2



Bee Attentive to Members

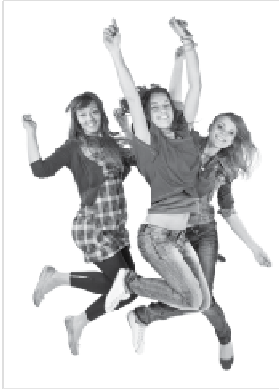
- Bee a mentor to a new member
- Bee collaborative (work together)
- Bee welcoming
- Bee a friend
- Bee caring

You Just Don't Know What You Are Missing

By GFWC Juniorette Chairman Linda Crish (DH)

The GFWC Juniorette category was introduced during the 1966-1968 administration. GFWC International President Carolyn Pearce remarked "I can think of no better means of assuring the continuity of Federation work and the influence for community good that we represent than by encouraging the formation of GFWC clubs for Junioresettes."

If you are a GFWC General or Junior Club and you do not sponsor a Juniorette club, you don't know what you are missing out on! Deciding as a club, to take the time to sponsor a Juniorette group has truly been a shot in the arm to many clubs that I have talked to about their sponsorship decision.



By accepting responsibility for the success of these young teens not only does your club provide much of your own experiences (some successful and some not so successful) but you open a world of volunteerism that some of these young women would never have had the chance to become involved with. Their enthusiasm is unmatched only by their energy, willingness to learn and joy that comes with each project. I marvel at the ideas that they share with their peers and advisors.



I urge each GFWC club, General and Junior to invest the time in helping start a Juniorette club, you will never be sorry.

For more information or ideas please feel free to contact Linda Crish, at 330-727-9321.

What is a Juniorette?

AS STATED IN THE GFWC BYLAWS ARTICLE V. JUNIORETTE CLUBS:

"Section 1. Definition. Clubs whose membership is composed entirely of Middle School/Junior High and High School age young women shall be classified as Juniorette Clubs. Such clubs shall hold active membership and shall participate in the regular programs of GFWC.

Section 2. Such Juniorette Clubs shall be sponsored by a (General or Junior) club holding active membership in GFWC."



 * GFWC GLR President Tric Heepe's granddaughters planting flowers *
 * at a local Domestic Violence Shelter. This is the perfect way to *
 * ensure that the next generation experiences volunteerism. *
 * These young ladies look like future Junioresettes to us!!! *
 * Thank you Tric Heepe for Living AND Sharing the Volunteer Spirit! *
 * *****

Leadership is a VERB!

Report presented by GFWC Leadership Committee member Trisha Schafer (IL)

Madam President, International President and Federation friends,

Leadership is an ACTION.

In the book *Leadership Genius* It says: "Leadership has been an over-used word, in which some people think of it as a person or a thing. It's not a thing. It's action, or a series of actions you do with people". LEADERSHIP is a VERB!

By a show of hands...How many of you would be comfortable calling yourself a leader?

How many of you would be comfortable saying that you exercise good leadership practices?

Good Leadership Practices.. Let's think about the word **practices** or **practice**.

Do any of you **practice** meditation or yoga? Doctors **practice** medicine, Lawyers **practice** law. Many other lines of business refer to their professions as **practices**. The word **practice** as a verb means: perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly) in order to improve or maintain one's proficiency.



In yoga, the reason they call it **practice** is because they don't know it all, they aren't perfect - so they keep **practicing**. They are learning and exploring all the time. There are doctors and lawyers that specialize in certain areas of medicine, education or law and because they know that can't do it all and do it very well - so they choose a specialty in their field.



As leaders for our GFWC Organization of Volunteers – we too are **practicing** our volunteer leadership.

We are performing and exercising our volunteer skills in order to improve our clubs, our communities and ourselves. Maybe we could call ourselves the GFWC Cupcake Women's Club **Practice**? We would be letting people know that we don't know it ...we aren't perfect, but that we are out there performing and exercising what we do know. That we are always striving to remain open to learning so that we can be the best at what we do.

As leaders, everything we do or say sends a message about us and what we are **practicing** as volunteers. Our leadership actions matter!

If you raised your hands and said that you were leaders... What kind of Leaders are you?

Think about the leaders, the teachers, the managers that you like and admire. How did they make you feel? What did you like about them? As a leader you must have an honest understanding of who you are, what you know and what you can do. Good leaders develop through a never-ending process or **practice** of self-study, education, training and experience.

So ...What is your leadership presence?

Your presence is how people feel when they are around you. This includes how safe they feel, whether they can trust you, what you bring out of them and how you listen, how and what you share of yourself.



IF YOU FILL THE ROOM, HOW CAN OTHERS GROW AROUND YOU? Leadership needs to move from doing a lot of talking to doing a lot of listening. Authority and control will work ...BUT ... what really works is Trust and Inspiration!

Remember ~ you are the leaders, the guardians, the practitioners of our organization!!



Your leadership can and will be a gift to someone when you put into **practice** and act on the traits and characteristics that make up a good leader.

It is a privilege to represent GFWC Great Lakes Region & GFWC IL on the GFWC Leadership Committee. I invite you to share with me, any thoughts ideas or questions you have about our Leadership committee. And I'll close with this thought:

Being in leadership is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't. - Margaret Thatcher

"Leadership has been an over-used word, in which some people think of it as a person or a thing. It's not a thing. It's action, or a series of actions you do with people".

Federation's Consensus on Public Policy Issues

By GFWC Resolutions Committee Member Barbara Whitaker (DH)

GFWC Resolutions reflect the Federation's consensus on public policy issues and serve as the foundation for our legislative actions on matters of national and international importance. GFWC currently has more than 200 resolutions addressing the six Community Service Program areas. These can be found under Resolutions on the Public Policy tab at GFWC.org. It's a large PDF file that can be read online or downloaded.

When advocating for an issue in an area in which GFWC has a resolution, let elected officials know there are over 90,000 members nationwide, who support that particular issue. There is power in numbers and we need to let our voices be heard. It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

The GFWC Action E-list is a policy tool that lets you know about pending legislation that needs your help. It's easy to sign up.

1. Go to www.gfwc.org
2. Click on Take Action under the Public Policy tab at the top.
3. Scroll to the bottom, under the words **Stay Informed**, click on Action E-list.
4. Fill out the information.
5. Click submit and you're ready to go.
6. You can also sign up for **Mega-vote** – this will keep you informed of how your own legislators are voting.

Another area in the same location is the Legislative Action Center. Any active legislative alerts will be right there. Click the Take Action button and an email will be sent to the President, Vice President and Senators and Representatives from your state. You have the option to send the form letter as displayed, compose your own letter, or add to the letter. We want you to add "**Proud member of GFWC**" at the bottom of the letter.

And all of these programs are FREE.

When advocating on behalf of the Federation, it is critical to remember:

- GFWC is a non-partisan, nondenominational organization. Therefore, clubwomen are allowed to advocate for policies or legislation, but NOT allowed, by law, to endorse candidates or engage in partisan politics.
- When speaking on behalf of the Federation, members may not oppose the GFWC resolutions.
- A member club or state federation holding a minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.

Kari's Law

Kari Dunn was a young mother who was escaping an abusive situation by taking her three small children to a hotel. Her husband found their room and ambushed Kari, stabbing her multiple times while her daughter tried to call 9-1-1. The little girl did not know that a "9" had to be entered to get an outside line. A grass roots effort is being made to pass "Kari's Law" in each state. Illinois has passed it so the job of the Illinois clubwomen is to see that hotels have complied. The rest of you, please join the effort. Help make Kari's Law a fact in your state.



Make your members aware of what happened by reading about Kari Dunn of Texas. Here are several ideas that may help. Write your state legislators encouraging they sponsor such a bill. Advocate with your local hotels/motels/inns. Work with your local or county government to make it a local law if you feel you cannot advocate on a state level. Write letters to the editor of your newspaper urging the public to assist. Facebook about the effort. Work with your local Chambers of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Hotel/Motel Associations for voluntary compliance. Marriott franchises have been instructed to comply. Recognize those who do comply through letters to the editor, congratulatory notes to the hotel, positive reviews on their website, Trip Advisor and other social media outlets.



The need to access 9-1-1 from a hotel room is not limited to issues of domestic violence. Health issues such as heart attacks, diabetic emergencies and strokes may interfere with the ability to think about the need for an extra 9. Through the efforts of our club members, lives may be saved.



The Campaign for the FUTURE!

By GFWC Secretary and GFWC Capital Campaign Chairman Deb Strahanoski (IL)

It is my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee. This Campaign can be transformative for GFWC and for our headquarters. You have heard the tales of woe but let's think about how it all started...

Through the encouragement of GFWC President Alice Ames Winter (1920-1922), GFWC members attending the 1922 GFWC International Convention pledged \$105,000 and paid \$21,000 into the treasury, which fully covered the \$70,000 purchase price of the house, as well as some furnishings. Hence 1734 N Street, NW became the official International Headquarters of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

It is time, perhaps nearly past time for us to focus some of our efforts on 1734 N Street NW— our home in Washington, DC. In order for us to celebrate a future that includes 1734 N Street...we need to have a vision that includes private support beyond that of our annual giving program known as the 1734 Society.

Take a look at a few of the Campaign's Timeline.

Legacy Giving Program development – Fall of 2014

- This aspect of the campaign addresses those individuals who plan to give gifts but not until the time of their passing. You can consider supporting GFWC in this way so we will take this time to communicate and educate our members and friends on how this could work and could also provide significant tax advantages

Kick Off of the campaign – 2015 Convention

- It is our hope to announce this campaign at the 2015 convention with at least half of our ultimate goal in hand, pledged or documented as planned gifts. This will give us the springboard to achieve so much more!

Donor Cultivation and Solicitation – ongoing through June 2019

- This will be an ongoing process and there will be opportunities for everyone to participate, regardless of level.

Region Engagement and State Engagement – Fall of 2015

- Who knows, regions and state federations may be among our highest donors and could place their name(s) in very prominent places at GFWC Headquarters.

Campaign Celebration – at the 2019 GFWC Annual Convention! Come one come all...you won't want to miss the celebration of what we anticipate will be a significant accomplishment for GFWC!

This campaign will involve five figures – six figures and seven figure gifts and may call on some of the most unlikely of clubwomen who have such respect for who we are and what we do that they want their legacy to be part of our history, our headquarters and our next **125 years!**



If you have any questions or would like more information on how YOU can become involved please contact Deb Strahanoski at debbie@wjscpa.net or 815-953-4829.



CPR

Report presented by GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee Member Lisa Hedrick (OH)

Props: Stethoscope, Scrubs
Handouts: Prescription Pad

Madame Presidents, Officers, Clubwomen,
Hello, I am Doctor Lisa,

I am here to talk to you today about the health and well being of your club. I am a licensed member of the GFWC CPR Team. CPR - Communications and Public Relations, the Heart Beat of our Federation and I have just come from another committee meeting.



My fellow committee members and I are sharing our expertise with clubwomen across the country on the

importance of CPR. We are here to help keep you and your clubs healthy, happy, and thriving. We all know what happens when our heartbeat weakens. We risk losing members or even a club. Strong Communication Skills will keep a club and its members strong.

We all realize that medical treatments have changed over the years, and how we communicate is no different. The ways you communicate with your members and the way you publicize your clubs' events during the year are constantly evolving.

Social Media like Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn, and others are some of the ways that Healthy Clubs are communicating with their members. For the members and clubs that don't use computers or have



smart phones, - personal phone calls and printed newsletters are still the way to go. But for those tech savvy members, why not correspond with Facebook and Twitter?



Websites are an enormous and valuable source of information. There are clubs that are completely paperless, placing administration books on their website, while still offering printed copies for the members that prefer it in that form. We don't want your pulse to weaken. Use all of these methods to keep your club



healthy and alive! By making a Club Facebook Page (which is free) you might even find some former members that are interested in rejoining your club.

Ask one or more members of your club to join our CPR team. Together we can keep your club healthy and keep the heartbeat of your members strong by communicating with them and with other clubs across your state, region, and across the nation. GFWC has a Facebook Page, as well as a Twitter Account. Follow them, and "LIKE" them! It spread it farther.



GFWC's Communications Department in Washington D.C. is just an email away to assist you with any questions you might have or assistance you might need. Peter is very knowledgeable and great to work with.



Just as medicine has advanced over the years, so should our Communication Skills and Public Relations options. The GFWC CPR Committee has just the prescription for you. Take a look at the two presentations listed on your prescription handout at your leisure. One contains information on the different Social Media tools – <http://slidesha.re/1mZh3Mf>.



The second is how to start a Facebook page – <http://slidesha.re/1qkmF49>

Utilize FREE Press releases – Your attendance at this meeting is showing up on Social Media BUT can also be shared with members and the community thru newspapers. A sample news release is found in the Communication and Public Relations Advancement Guide on the GFWC website but please don't forget to include "the boilerplate".

As your Doctor – my prescription for each of you is: Spread GFWC News Across The Great Lakes Region. Contact your CPR Team of Professionals if you have any questions and we know your club will be feeling stronger and healthier in no time.

I would like to leave you with a quote by Mary Engelbreit: "If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it".



"CPR - Communications and Public Relations, the Heart Beat of our Federation ..."

LEARN CPR
You Can Do It!

Where Were You???

By GFWC GLR Conference Co-Chairmen Chris Burns (MI) and Renee Horist (MI)

Wow, if you missed the very successful GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference held in Frankenmuth, MI on October 10th and 11th, then you truly missed a great time! Everyone was welcomed with the open arms of friendship—old friends reacquainted with old friends, while others made new friends—all who shared the common bonds of Federation.

The event was held at the rustic Bavarian Inn Lodge, and one could not have asked for a better venue. The hotel offered many amenities and worked together with the Conference Co-chairmen (Renee Horist and Chris Burns) to make the weekend enjoyable. Owner Judy Zender Keller also entertained us throughout the conference with tales and tidbits of life in Frankenmuth. GLR President Tric Heepe, despite having a very full schedule, conducted well-run meetings that remained on time and stayed interesting.



The one hundred and seventy five attendees (35 of whom were first timers) benefitted from the officers and chairmen who spoke, the skits and workshop presentations that informed us, and the warm feelings of friendship that touched all of us. We were so very lucky to

have four of our national officers with us - Babs Condon, GFWC International President; Sheila Shea, GFWC President-elect; our own Deb Strahanoski, GFWC Secretary; and Suellen Brazil, GFWC Treasurer. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet up close and personal these exceptional leaders who represent us and lead us. They not only shared important information with us but they also shared in the fun times too. President Condon's presentation focused on the many aspects of our GFWC Signature: Project of Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention including the support for the passage of various domestic violence laws, and also on reconnecting with the goals of GFWC and the pride of belonging to this outstanding organization.



The entertainment at the Friday Night Banquet hosted by the members of GFWC MI was wonderful. Peggy Kline, speaker and professional humorist taught us through her "Treat Yourself Like Royalty" presentation that as women we need to be strong but flexible in everything we do and always take time to care for ourselves. We also heard from three of our states LEADS candidates who told us how they benefitted from this exceptional leadership program with plans to move into leadership positions in their clubs and states. On Saturday, Pat Quintero from Sew Much Comfort informed us about the program which sews adaptive clothing for injured vets.



It is not easy to put into words on a paper the feelings of all the good that was abundant at the GFWC GLR Conference—you needed to be there in person to feel the love of friendship and the common bond of belonging to Federation. Yes, we did a lot of work; and yes, there was fun time! Everyone had the chance to shop to their hearts' content not only with products offered from GFWC, GLR and our states within the hotel, but also to shop in downtown Frankenmuth a/k/a Little Bavaria (we had coupons galore in our packets) a very unique and special place. Yes, YOU need to plan to join your fellow sisters at the 2015 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference to be held in Toledo, Ohio for another opportunity to have a great time being a member of GFWC and the Great Lakes Region.



GFWC GLR President Tric Heepe, GFWC Michigan State President Fran Leonard, and GFWC International President Babs Condon Pictured Left to Right

