

Winter 2015

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# The GFWC GLR Communiqué



## “Sharing the Volunteer Spirit”



### THE DRAGONFLYS ARE FLYING!

By GFWC Great Lakes President Tric Heepe (IN)



Spring is on the way -Really! I trust that you used the bad weather to stay in and reflect on your 2014 accomplishments and put them to paper in your reports. Reports are like homework-at first, yuck, then you settle into the task and before long, you are so excited as you remember all the things you and your clubwomen did in just one year! You are happy to brag! The bonus is that your club and state can receive national recognition while GFWC uses the information to advocate for women and for public relations, fundraising/partnership reasons.

I have been a member of a GFWC club for 34 years. In fact, I was hired by the Social Security Administration because a club member was a member of management at the local office. She saw what I did in the club and knew it would translate to a public service job. 33 years later, I know GFWC helped me find a career.

I have spent the past several years working more in a leadership role and less hands on with GFWC. Yes, I collected items for Operation Smile, spear heading the collection of items for the newly opened DV shelter, and became a certified seamstress for Sew Much Comfort, but thanks to the great response from GFWC members and finally the drastic drop in limb injuries by our service men and women, that need has decreased. As the GFWC Indiana state leadership has continued to grow and recruit excellent new leaders, I am less active on that level and serve in more of an advisory position.

Spring is on the way -Really! I trust that you used the bad

Feeling the need to be more of a doer, in 2010, I was able to become a member of the Richmond YWCA/Genesis Board of Directors. We operate the domestic violence shelter in Richmond. With my GFWC background, I was able to active participate immediately. In 2014, as committee chairmen, I helped completely rewrite the Bylaws. I served two years as secretary and January 2015 was my first meeting as Board President. I facilitated the New Board Member Orientation, something that has not been done in years. Again, what I have learned in GFWC has been invaluable! This month I will be chairing the Board Retreat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. When I volunteered last year to run a retreat, I was asked how I knew how to go about it. I explained that outside sources wanted to charge us \$1,000 that we needed for the Shelter. I explained the attitude “If you want something done, ask a club woman. “I researched, read, asked questions, and facilitated a successful retreat.

It is said that the jewel-like colors of the dragonfly



takes time to develop reflects the idea that our own true colors only come forth with maturity. So when you see me in Memphis, you will know me. Just look for the colorful old lady with a HUGE smile on her face!

I wish you the best as you prepare for the 2015 State Conventions. Enjoy each other as you share accomplishments and ideas for new ways to Share the Volunteer Spirit!

Tric

### GFWC Executive Committee in the Whitehouse!

Contributed By GFWC Secretary Deb Strahanoski (IL)

#### GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDS WHITE HOUSE BRIEF

*(Actual press release)*

Organization Engages in Dialogue On Domestic Violence, Early Childhood Education and Veterans' Issues

**January 22, 2015 (Washington, D.C.)** – The General Federation of Women's Clubs Executive Committee, led by International President Babs J. Condon, attended a White House briefing on Wednesday, January 21. Key Administration staffers engaged with GFWC leaders for an informative dialogue that encompassed a variety of issues and initiatives that are high priorities for both the Federation and Administration.

"GFWC was honored to have such an opportunity to discuss with the White House vital issues that have literally shaped our Federation through the years," said GFWC President Condon. "As an organization dedicated to community improvement, we must take time to discuss important topics that impact the quality of life for all—especially those related to women and girls, early childhood education, and veterans' services. With more than 3,000 clubs and 100,000 members across the country and internationally, GFWC is uniquely positioned to educate communities about Administration initiatives in these areas, as well as others highlighted in the President's State of the Union Address."

The Executive Committee received an overview from Hallie Schneir, Deputy Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, which focused on the profound effect of local level impact and grass roots engagement—a characteristic that has defined GFWC for well over a century. Schneir complimented both the breadth and scope of GFWC's work and provided insight into possible future areas of engagement.

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Engagement, touched on many of the points President Obama laid out in his recent State of the Union Address—middle class economics, costs of education, keeping good and high-paying jobs in America, and setting strong environmental standards. The dialogue that followed allowed GFWC leaders to point out scholarship support that has long been part of the fabric of the Federation. It also led to a conversation about GFWC's work in the areas of conservation and environmental sustainability.

Kyle Lierman, Associate Director of Public Engagement, focused on the "It's On Us" campaign, which seeks to engage and educate those who are not victims of sexual assault to take action and change that culture within their communities. Lierman also described "Invest In US" to the Executive Committee. This program challenges public and private partners, business leaders, philanthropists, advocates, elected officials, and individuals to build a better nation by expanding high-quality early childhood education.

Dr. Tiffany McNair, MD, MPH, a White House Fellow in the Office of the Vice President, spoke more in-depth about the Administration's outreach on college campuses and demand for local police to respond to and help prevent campus sexual assault. McNair also briefed the Executive Committee on the White House's efforts to empower young girls at risk of HIV/AIDS. These topics resonated with GFWC leaders as they represent some of the most powerful and pervasive objectives of many of the Federation's clubs.

"We are proud to have an audience with the White House on these issues that are of such importance to us all as Americans," said Condon. "We look forward to working with the Administration and position GFWC as an agent of positive change for the future just as we have been for 125 years, by Living the Volunteer Spirit."



Pictured left to right  
GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Cathy Jo Canterbury  
GFWC Treasurer Suellen Brazil  
GFWC Secretary Deb Strahanoski (IL)  
GFWC Second Vice President Marian St. Clair  
GFWC First Vice President Mary Ellen Brock  
GFWC President-elect Sheila Shea  
GFWC International President Babs Condon

## GFWC Executive Committee in the Whitehouse!

Contributed By GFWC Secretary Deb Strahanoski (IL)

### GFWC Attends White House Briefing

(From NEWS & NOTES – January 24)

The GFWC Executive Committee, led by International President Babs J. Condon, attended a [White House](#) briefing on Wednesday, January 21 with [key Administration staffers](#) and engaged in an informative dialogue that encompassed a variety of issues and initiatives that are high priorities for both our organization and Administration. "GFWC was honored to have such an opportunity to discuss with the White House vital issues that have literally shaped our Federation through the years," said President Condon. "GFWC is uniquely positioned to educate communities about Administration initiatives in these areas, as well as others highlighted in the President's State of the Union Address." The Executive Committee received an overview from Hallie Schneir, Deputy Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, which focused on the profound effect of local level impact and grass roots engagement—a characteristic that has defined GFWC for well over a century. Schneir complimented both the breadth and scope of GFWC's work and provided insight into possible future areas of engagement.

GFWC leaders then conducted a dialogue with Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Engagement, Kyle Lierman (pictured above), Associate Director of Public Engagement, and Dr. Tiffany McNair, MD, MPH, a White House Fellow in the Office of the Vice President on a host of issues and initiatives, including the [It's On Us campaign](#) focusing on sexual assault on women and girls, the [Invest in US](#) early childhood education initiative, as well as veterans outreach and the empowerment of young girls at risk of HIV/AIDS. The Executive Committee was able to point to GFWC's work in these areas, from the national level down to grassroots efforts through its individual clubs across the country. "We are proud to have an audience with the White House on these issues that are of such importance to us all as Americans," said Condon. "We look forward to working with the Administration and position GFWC as an agent of positive change for the future just as we have been for 125 years, by *Living the Volunteer Spirit*."



Picture below left to right  
Cathy Jo Canterbury  
Deb Strahanoski (IL)  
Mary Ellen Brock  
Babs Condon  
Sheila Shea  
Marian St. Clair  
Suellen Brazil  
Ida Dorvee

Pictured front row left to right  
Cathy Jo Canterbury  
Babs Condon  
Pictured back row left to right  
Ida Dorvee  
Deb Strahanoski (IL)  
Mary Ellen Brock  
Sheila Shea  
Marian St. Clair  
Suellen Brazil

(Offices listed on page two)

Offices listed on page 2



### Making a Positive Difference

By GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Committee Member Rose Logston (DH)

We are the voice (and so much more) for those who have no voices. Clubwomen throughout the country have found creative ways to provide support of victims, create awareness in their communities, and help survivors of intimate partner abuse find their voice.

The generous members of the GFWC Great Lakes Region donated over five hundred dollars to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund. Last year eight scholarships were awarded to victims wanting to become survivors through education and clubs are encouraged to have their own fundraising projects to support these scholarships.

There are many opportunities for you to promote our GFWC Signature Project, just contact your state chairman or go to the GFWC.org website for ideas.

Have you planned your "Pinwheel Garden"? It may be too late to order large quantities but you can contact your state PCAA affiliates to see if you can obtain some from them. List of state affiliates can be obtained



Prevent Child Abuse  
America

from them. List of state affiliates can be obtained [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org).

PCAA will be giving three awards for the winners of the

Pinwheel Garden Contest, watch the GFWC News and Notes for the application.

**February** is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that one in ten adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence and one in four report verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse each year and since seventy-two percent of eighth and ninth graders report they "date" this is the prime opportunity for education and prevention. Let your voices be heard and help educate.

**April** is Child Abuse Prevention Month and there will giant pinwheel garden in New York and Chicago and if our members step forward, as they have in the past, in many, many communities around the country. So impressive and our opportunity to raise awareness!



**May** is Older Americans Month and 2015 is the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act. This would be a perfect time to raise awareness about Elder Abuse. It is estimated that between 2010 and 2030 nearly twenty percent of the total population will be sixty-five or older and with eleven percent of them experiencing some type of abuse or neglect, there is the need for our members to raise awareness, enlist the public for support, and generate active involvement in our communities.

Many other holidays and observances can provide opportunities for your club to raise your voices and offer your support.

Don't forget to contact your local domestic violence shelters and ask them –"what can we do for you?"

Thank you for all you do and the positive difference you make in the lives of many.

Make plans to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> GFWC anniversary celebration in Memphis in **June** and watch for updates about workshops, programs, and projects.



Break the Cycle

TEEN  
DATING  
VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS  
MONTH



Pinwheels for  
PREVENTION  
Prevent Child Abuse  
America



## BEE A CONSERVATIONIST!

By Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, GFWC Conservation Chairman (IL)

### Immediate Action Required!! Earth Day is approaching!

**April 22 is officially Earth Day.**

On this day many people stop and, hopefully, take note of what is going on with the Earth. Unfortunately for Earth this should be a focus everyday.

#### Here are just a few areas to place your club's focus:

- Recycle, Recycle, Recycle If your community does not have a recycle system either find one close by or talk to city hall.
- Clean water is of high importance! Help clean up or draw community awareness to water sites. Check out Chad Pegracke, a CNN Hero of the year, and his efforts in this area. In the future water will be more valuable than gold!
- Plant trees, you can never have too many. Encourage the planting of fruit trees for your family or help out the local food pantry. Checkout ACTrees.org
- Plan and encourage planting community vegetable gardens or share the excess from your own garden.
- Take care of the little ones, as you can imagine, my focus is on butterflies and bees! Plan to plant pollinator gardens and "waystations" for our winged friends. You can learn more about a Monarch waystation by visiting [www.Monarch.Watch.org/waystations](http://www.Monarch.Watch.org/waystations) for updated information.



There are lots of ways to help our Earth have a long life and if we don't act now it may be too late for all of us!

....**"If you don't care a whole awful lot, it's not going to get better it's NOT!"**

## Facts and Myths about Dragonflies

There are lots of fun and interesting facts about dragonflies. Some facts about dragonflies are scientifically proven facts and some are actually myths about dragonflies that have been around for as long as hundreds of years. Can you tell the difference between the myths and the facts about dragonflies?

A bee flaps its wings about 300 times per second, but a dragonfly flaps its wings at only about 30 beats per second.  
Fact- dragonflies have two sets of wings so they don't have to beat them as much to fly.

A dragonfly is a very strong and good flyer, and can fly at speeds of up to 36 miles per hour.  
Fact - but not all dragonflies are that fast - one was clocked at this speed in Australia.

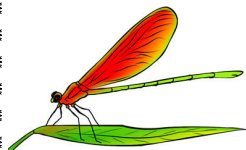
In the old days, dragonflies would seek out bad kids and sew their mouths together with their claspers while they slept. Dragonflies were known as the devil's darning needles.  
Myth - dragonflies don't have pockets to carry the thread to the beds of sleeping wicked children.

There were huge dinosaur dragonflies that lived 300 million years ago.

Fact - the largest fossil found had a 2 ½ foot wingspan, and currently there are dragonflies in Costa Rica that measure 7 ½ inches across the wings.

Dragonflies have huge stingers and some people are allergic to their stings and can die.

Myth - the thing that looks like a stinger on a dragonfly is actually called a clasper and the male dragonfly uses it to hold onto the female when they are mating.



## The Leadership Loop

By GFWC Leadership Committee Member Trisha Schafer (IL)

Your GFWC Leadership committee is excited to keep you in the "loop" by sharing articles, websites, words of wisdom, reminders and other information related to your Leadership programs and responsibilities in an email to your club and state Leadership Chairmen called the "Leadership Loop"!

Below are three of "The 12 Rules of Respect" ([www.leadershipnow.com](http://www.leadershipnow.com))

### 1. Be Aware of Your Nonverbal and Extra-verbal Cues.

What we say is important, but how we say it can make or break the communication. "Extra-verbal cues include the speed with which we speak, our volume relative to background noise, our inflection, and our willingness to pause to make space for others to speak."

### 2. Develop Curiosity About the Perspectives of Others

"Empathy is demonstrated when it becomes evident to others around us that we are interested in what they think, why they think it, and how they feel about it. When this happens, it becomes easier to communicate respect to others, even if we disagree with them."

### 3. Assume that Everyone is Smart About Something

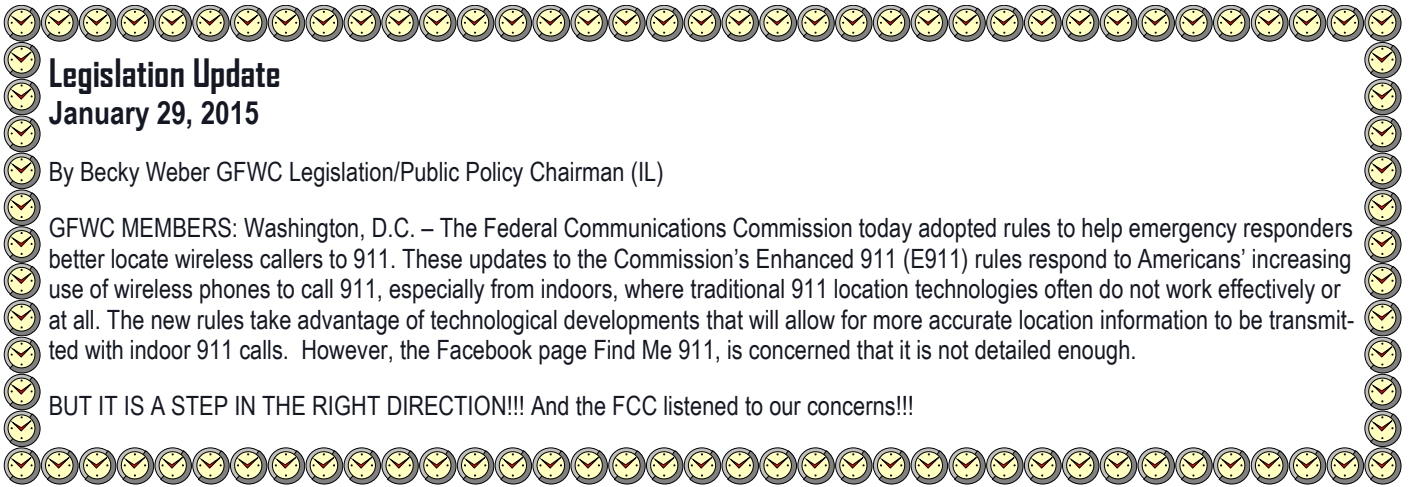
"Because I like to think I'm smart, it is reasonable to assume that other people like to think they are also smart. The only difference is that we are all smart through different histories and life experiences."

As a Leader, I hope we all continue to search for ways we can help each other and continue "Living the Volunteer Spirit"!!



As a Leader, I hope we all continue to search for ways we can help each other and continue "Living the Volunteer Spirit"!!

Please contact me if I can assist you!  
Trisha Schafer  
[Trisha@SchafersCabin.com](mailto:Trisha@SchafersCabin.com)

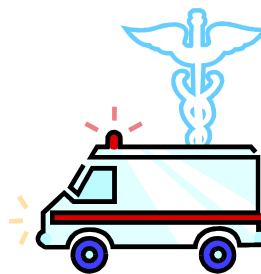


## Legislation Update January 29, 2015

By Becky Weber GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Chairman (IL)

GFWC MEMBERS: Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today adopted rules to help emergency responders better locate wireless callers to 911. These updates to the Commission's Enhanced 911 (E911) rules respond to Americans' increasing use of wireless phones to call 911, especially from indoors, where traditional 911 location technologies often do not work effectively or at all. The new rules take advantage of technological developments that will allow for more accurate location information to be transmitted with indoor 911 calls. However, the Facebook page Find Me 911, is concerned that it is not detailed enough.

BUT IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!!! And the FCC listened to our concerns!!!



"News From Around Our GREAT Lakes"  
How Do Our District's Work?

GFWC Illinois now has 20 districts

By GFWC GLR Correspondent Trisha Schafer (IL)

GFWC Illinois now has 20 districts. The boundaries are listed in our By-Laws' Standing Rules by what counties are in each Region. They are divided into 3 Regions (Northern, Central and Southern).

Each Region has a Vice President on the State Board that concentrates on communication with, and support of, the districts in their respective Regions. They coordinate arrangements for the region meetings in the districts when scheduled by the GFWC IL President. They serve as the liaisons between the Executive committee and the District Presidents. The District Presidents serve on the State Board.

On our Junior Level, Illinois has our Director elect/Dean of Directors who communicates and supports all of our GFWC Illinois Junior District Directors and is a liaison between the Junior District Directors and their GFWC Illinois General Vice Presidents of their Region. The District Junior Directors serve on the Junior Board.

20  
Districts  
-  
Present  
Time



State  
with  
Clubs



## GFWC Indiana Small But Mighty

By GFWC GLR Correspondent Kimberly Meyers (IN)

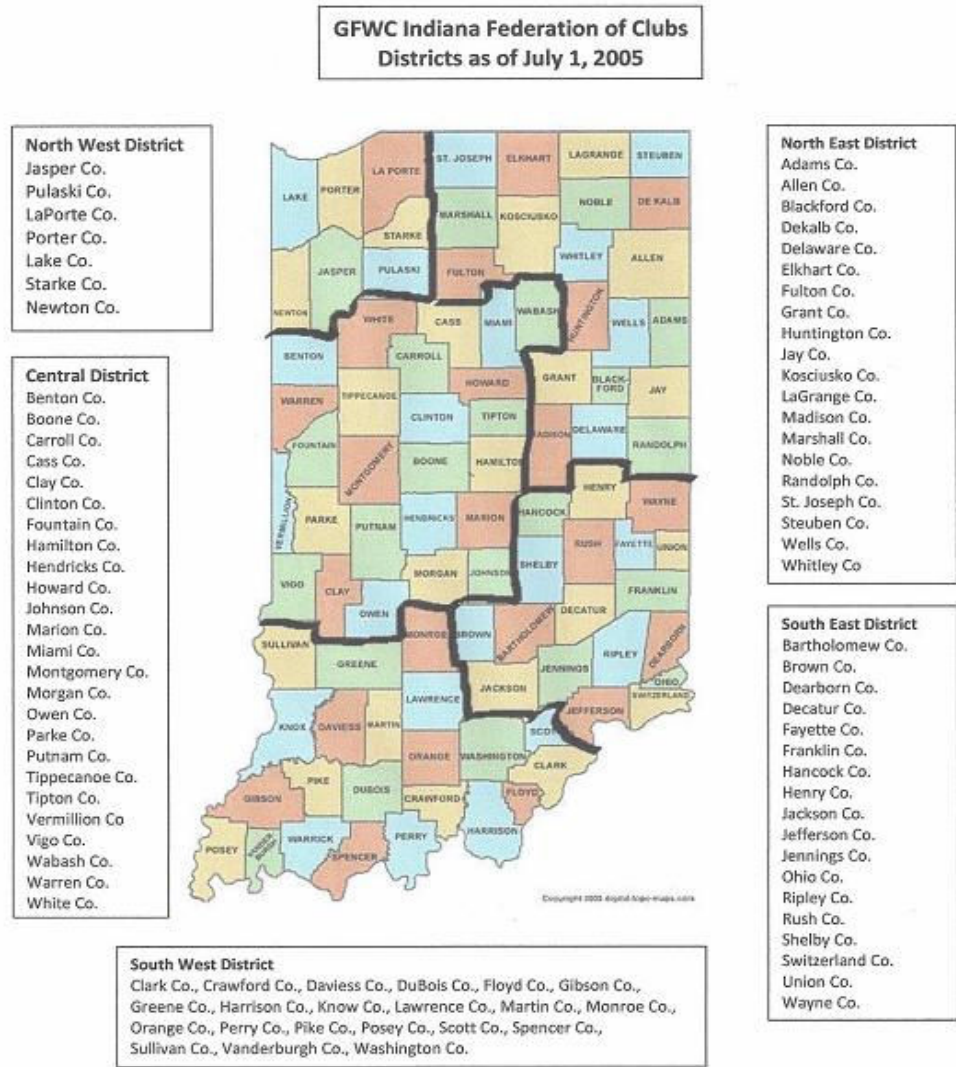
The Great State of Indiana may have a smaller membership than our neighbors, but we work just as hard! Our five elected officers work with our Hoosier volunteers to keep them informed and inspired. Our officers have a history of being a snapshot of our membership: hard working and approachable.

Our GFWC/IFC President, Dana Jones, leads our 33 clubs in five fairly evenly distributed state districts. President Elect, Betsey Nielsen, keeps tabs on our state districts by communicating regularly with the District Presidents. Betsey is charged with organizing the dates of the annual District meetings that happen in the fall as our state officers travel the state to share information about new programming and projects. District meetings allow members to have convenient access to our President and other officers in an informal, convenient setting for the members.

Each district has a slate of elected officers, all including at least a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Some districts ask for volunteers to take offices, while others have contested elections. In the "volunteer" districts, it is not unusual to "recycle" officers. Due to smaller memberships, these districts may have officers that have previously served in her current position or another position, and they may offer to take an open position. Many have served all of the district positions more than once. There are pros and cons to the "volunteer" method: officers do not need the orientation period to adjust to the duties, but they may also become burned out sooner than someone who has never served in the position. The "contested" districts may have officers who have worked their way up to and through the offices, at times running against friends for the same office. Structured more like the State and International organizations, officers usually serve in each position once.

Districts officers' responsibilities are similar to those at the state level, though operating on a smaller scale. District Presidents are generally able to share information with club presidents and or members via email. In Indiana we are fortunate to have had State Presidents who excel at keeping in touch via email with most members about the happenings around the state and GFWC. We are also fortunate to have the Indiana Clubwoman Magazine, which is an informational quarterly magazine that tells in pictures and words what our women from all districts have been up to.

Every April members from throughout the state gather in our state capital, Indianapolis, to celebrate our collective accomplishments. Our District Presidents have time to share the projects and activities from their districts. There is laughter, love, and fellowship among members from all the districts. We are blessed to have five teams of district leaders who work with our state team who plan, organize, and implement a state meeting where all of our members can walk away with more than we brought.





### GFWC Michigan's Districts

By GFWC Michigan President Fran Leonard & GFWC GLR Correspondent Donna Brown (MI)

GFWC Michigan with its seven districts is unique as the state itself: Two beautiful peninsulas united by a bridge of steel and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The Upper Peninsula is home to one district with five clubs and 440 members; and home to six districts in the Lower Peninsula with 45 clubs and 1,431 members.

Each District is governed by their Bylaws and consists of a Board of Directors with officers, who are nominated, elected, and installed every other year at the Districts' Annual Meeting during the fall of the year. The District President is also installed at the GFWC Michigan State Convention. Her duties include promoting interest in GFWC Michigan and GFWC International and appointing chairmen for the GFWC Community Service Programs, Special Projects, Advancements and Michigan programs; and works closely with District and State Membership Chairmen to organize new clubs and encourage those already organized to become members of GFWC Michigan.

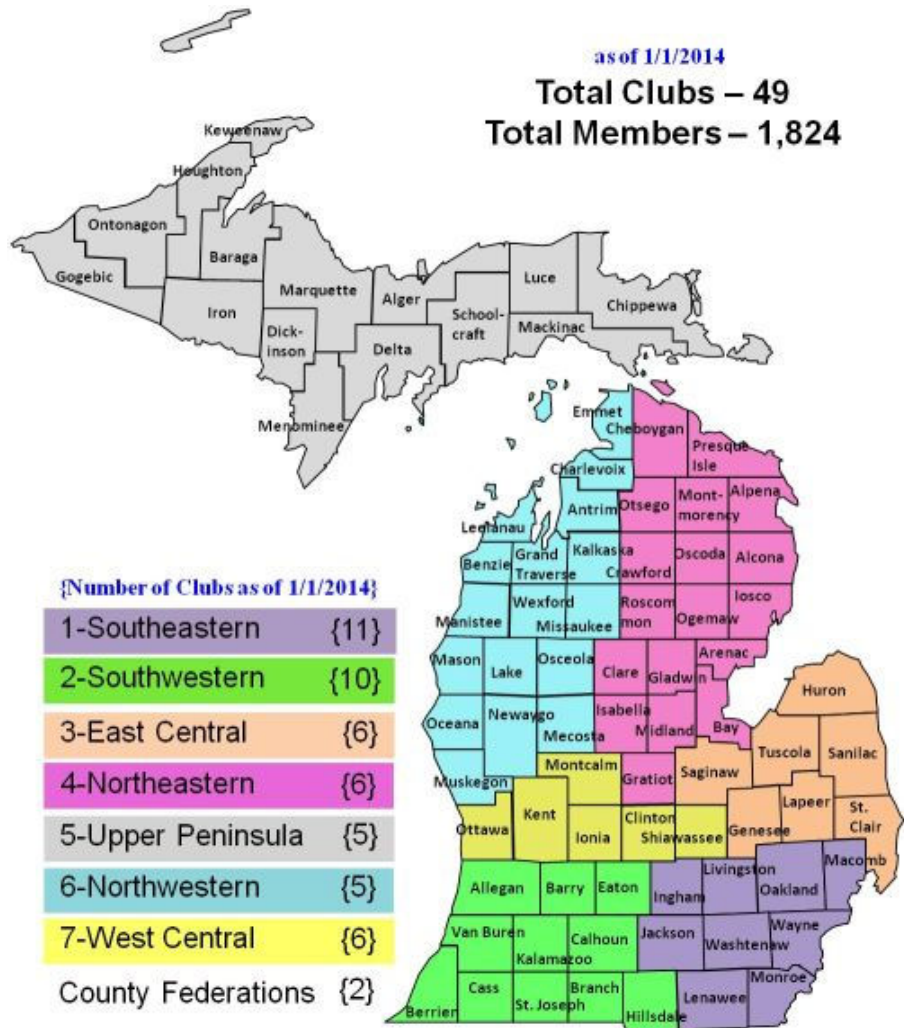
Following our State President's Theme of Reconnect with GFWC, District Presidents, their Chairmen and State Chairmen are charged with reconnecting with each other, introducing themselves at the beginning of their term sharing information with each other about their Community Service Programs, Special Projects, Advancements, and Michigan programs throughout their term. The District Chairmen share with the Club Presidents and Club Chairmen.

Most of the District Presidents prepare a newsletter periodically regarding news of the District, State and GFWC and will include District Chairmen information. The newsletters are shared with state officers and district clubs. District Presidents, officers, and chairmen are to keep a record of their work during the two year term and pass that information to those that will replace them.

District Presidents serve on the GFWC Michigan Board of Directors and attends all meetings presenting a report of activities. She will prepare an annual report of all the clubs in her District and present at the Annual GFWC Michigan Convention. Each District alternately hosts the State Conventions providing Convention and Site Chairmen, working closely with the State President and other convention chairpersons.

Our District Presidents are charged with a portion of the GFWC Michigan reporting process. They receive copies of all club reports from their District from the GFWC Michigan First Vice President and has them judged in each membership category. Clubs recognized as first, second and third place are honored at the state convention with certificates. Only first place club winners send additional information to the state president for selection of club of the year in each membership category.

GFWC Michigan remains ever constant through its Districts and Clubs, all for **"Living the Volunteer Spirit" in our communities!**



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### GFWC Ohio's Districts!

By GFWC GLR Correspondent Patrice Booze (OH)

#### Ohio Districts

The state shall be divided into the number of Districts approved by the Board of Directors. The boundary lines of each District shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Re-districting changes, if any, shall be announced at the following Annual Meeting (Convention) and become effective the administration following their adoption.

GFWC Ohio currently has five Districts and they are Northwest, Lake Erie, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast. There is an elected District President in each District and an elected Director of Juniors in those districts in which there are Junior clubs.



#### Meetings

**District Federation Information Day** is held in the summer after the State Federation Information Day. District Community Service Chairmen set up informational displays, give a presentation on pertinent information, and distribute material to all club presidents in the district.

**Fall Conference** the speakers are the traveling state officers, the President, First Vice President (President elect the second year of the administration), the state Director of Junior Clubs, and the Director elect the second year of the administration. Topics are up to the speakers except the First Vice President discusses reporting as the Dean of CSPs.

**Legislation Day** is held in the spring and the speaker is on a Legislative or Public Policy issue. The district awards for reporting are presented by the district chairmen with the highlights of programs and projects shared with attendees at this meeting. Clubs must win awards at the district level to be eligible for state awards.

#### Duties of the Officers

##### District Presidents

The District Presidents shall have supervision over the clubs in their respective Districts and shall arrange for and preside at their respective District Fall Conferences and Legislation Day meetings. They shall cooperate in the work of the GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs Officers, Department, Division, and Committee Chairmen and shall appoint District Chairmen and a Recording Secretary.

##### District Responsibilities:

1. Plan and preside in conjunction with the District Director of Junior Clubs:
  - a. District Federation Information Day
  - b. Fall Conference
  - c. Legislation Day (held in the spring)
2. Additional responsibilities include:
  - a. Maintain contact with all clubs in district, help them if needed and attend any club meeting in the district when invited.
  - b. Receive club reports of the district, which are due February 1. Review the reports with the District Director of Junior Clubs.
  - c. Mail report forms and club information to district chairmen the first week of February.
  - d. Compile a list of all district winners.
  - e. Review Honor Roll point totals for district clubs with the State Dean of Community Service Programs.
  - f. Collect Club Officers Notice ("The Green Sheet") from all clubs in the district.
  - g. Answer all correspondence in a timely fashion.
  - h. Within 30 days of the end of the term, deliver all records, papers and other properties, which belong to the position to the succeeding District President.

##### District Director of Junior Clubs

- a. The District Director of Juniors shall have supervision over Junior club work in her respective District. She shall preside at the District Fall Conference Junior session, assist the District President, and cooperate in the work of the GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs.
- b. Assist the District President and cooperate in the work of the GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs.

##### District Duties:

- a. Share in the planning and presiding of the District Meetings with the District President which include:
  1. Federation Information Day
  2. Fall Conference
  3. Legislation Day
- b. Make visits to Junior Clubs as requested – performing installation of officers' ceremonies or being a guest speaker at Junior meetings.

Receive copies of each Junior Club's annual club report in the district. After checking each report thoroughly summarizes the information in order to complete the report to the State Director of Junior Clubs. Assist the District President with the judging of club reports as requested. Within 30 days of the end of the term, deliver all records, papers and other properties, which belong to the position to the succeeding District Junior Director.

## GFWC Wisconsin's Districts

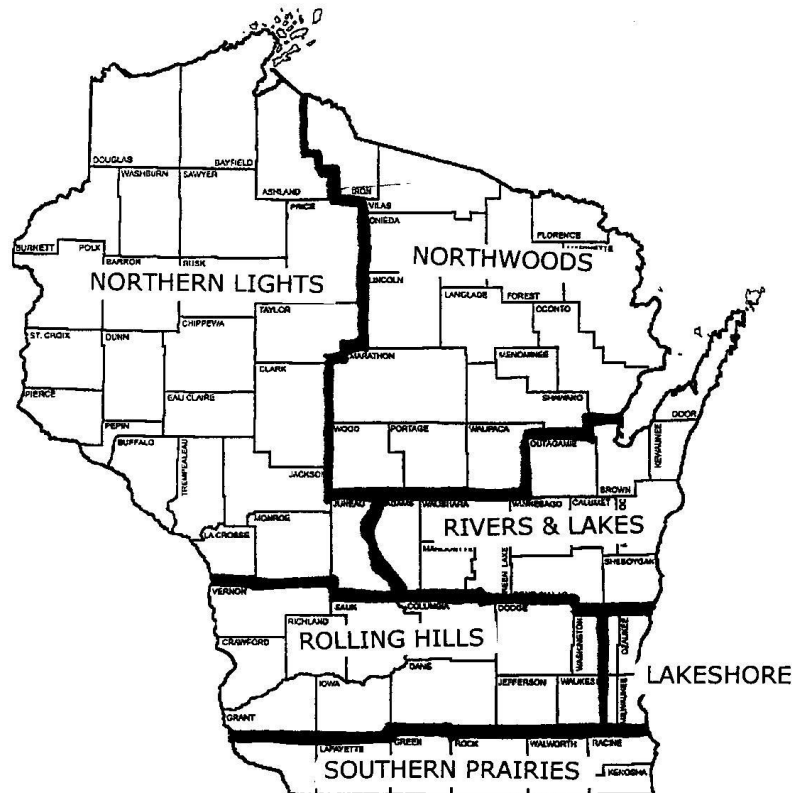
By GFWC GLR Correspondent Sue LaBuda (WI)

The State of Wisconsin is more than Packer fans, Brewer fans, beer and cheese, almost forgot Badger fans! It is made up of GFWC club-women all over the state that make up six districts. Back in 2006-2008 Administration our state needed to redistrict from ten districts down to six.

The Southern Prairies district is from Beloit far over to Kenosha and down to Wisconsin – Illinois border. The next district is Rolling Hills, which goes from Madison area and over near the cities that are not quite to Milwaukee. The one small district is the district that holds all the clubs in and around the Milwaukee area that are near Lake Michigan, which is Lakeshore. The next district is Rivers and Lakes, which covers the central southern area over to Lake Winnebago, up to Green Bay, Door County and down to Sheboygan along Lake Michigan. Next is district covers the central part of the state and up to upper Michigan and this district is Northwoods. And our big district (geographical) is Northern Lights, which goes from La Crosse up to Lake Superior and along the Mississippi River and Minnesota border.

Districts elect officers which include the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. They are elected at spring convention in the even numbered years and serve for a term of two years. The Corresponding Secretary, District Advisor and Junior Director (if they have Junior clubs in their district) are appointed positions. The elected officers along with the appointees comprise our Executive Committee.

We have two meetings annually; spring and fall. Meetings are hosted by clubs going in an alphabetical rotation. At each of our meetings we try to have a state officer join us to help keep the lines of communication flowing. Even though all clubs and members are always encouraged to attend as many international, region and state meetings as possible, it's not always an option for members but made sure they are well informed of all the projects, programs and other items of interest and importance.



**GFWC-WI DISTRICTS**

### GFWC GLR Member News

We would like to share the SAD news of the passing of **Mabel Lou Weber**. We extend our condolences to her family, friends and her GFWC sisters!

Mabel Lou Weber.

Born: January 31, 1928

Died: January 24, 2015

Mabel Lou Weber, 86 of Antioch, IL, passed away Saturday, January 24, 2015 at The Village of Victory Lakes, Lindenhurst. She was born January 31, 1928 in Burlington, WI, the daughter of the late Elmer L. and Martha H. (Buck) Hunter. Mabel Lou was a lifelong member and organist emeritus of United Methodist Church of Antioch, Antioch Village Trustee from 1979-1989, Past President of Antioch Woman's Club, Director of the Victory Lakes Vocaleers, founding Member of the Festival Arts of Antioch, a lifelong Sequoit, graduating Class of 1945 from Antioch High School. She was also a 50 year member of the Eastern Star, Past President of G.F.W.C. 10th District and a former G.F.W.C. International Musician, Past President of numerous golf leagues, and Member of the Lake County Woman's Coalition. Mabel Lou lived life according to her nickname "Gus," short for Gusto.



Mabel Lou is survived by her children, Jeannine Leonhart, Reverend William (Ruby) Dow, Robert (Debra) Dow, Joseph (Cheryl) Weber, and James (Becky) Weber; her fourteen grandchildren, Jennifer (Drew) Morris, Jayme Bean, Jessica Leonhart, Daniel Dow, Michael Dow, Anthony (Ruby) Dow, 1st Sgt. Nicholas Weber, USMC, Samantha Weber, Tessa Weber, Jacob Weber, Ryan Weber, and Logan Weber; her thirteen great-grandchildren, Ben, Joe, Hailey, Janelle, Tayler, Tristan, Gavin, Alexandria, Austin, Alexis, Tyler; her siblings, Charlotte Schulz, Jane (Kennedy) Heuer, and June Boese; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. In addition to her parents, Mabel Lou was preceded in death by the three men in her life, William Dow, Arnold Weber, and Walter Nechoda; her son-in-law, Joseph Leonhart, and brothers-in-law, Eldon Schulz and Robert Boese.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00AM, Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at United Methodist Church of Antioch, 848 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002. Interment was private. Memorials may be made to United Methodist Church of Antioch Music Ministry. Please sign the online guest-book for Mabel Lou at [www.strangfh.com](http://www.strangfh.com).

