



Fall 2015

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The GFWC GLR Communiqué



"Sharing the Volunteer Spirit"



THE DRAGONFLIES ARE FLYING!

By GFWC Great Lakes President Tric Heepe (IN)



Wow. The 2015 GFWC Great Lakes Region Conference is in the books. Many hours of planning, emailing, calling, changing, negotiating etc. and I hope you felt it was worth it. Trying to incorporate suggestions from the 2014 evaluations, we included more partners (Prevent Child Abuse America

and Canine Companions) and more involvement by the attendees. We had many changes during the Conference, but using the "go with the flow" attitude; we just made adjustments and moved on. A club-woman must always be flexible! The members of Ohio welcomed us in true buckeye fashion. It seemed they all had smiles on their faces and were the perfect hostesses. The Indiana delegation presented the "Buy A Shot Give A Shot" for our Saturday luncheon dessert, with all proceeds being donated. You raised \$500 for Shot At Life!!!!

I have read many of the evaluations from this year, but had to take a break. Thank you to all that took your valuable time to give us your feedback. We do read them all and take everything said very seriously.

The evaluations were designed to evaluate each of the eight Region Conferences. These are then used by Region Presidents, GFWC Officers, and Staff to plan the Region Conferences for the next year. Information that was hoped for were items like but not limited to: Were the workshops relevant? Were handouts sufficient to take back to your club? Did the speakers reinvigorate and inspire you? And most importantly, was the Conference worth your time and money and will you come next year? If you said yes to the last questions, then the hundreds of hours spent working to make your GFWC GLR experience a positive one were worth it.

Some of the items that were critiqued were the city, chef, and hotel staff but these are all the things over which GFWC GLR had no control. I will address these and write an article "What goes into planning a conference?" in the next issue of our GFWC GLR Communiqué.

I want to thank the GLR officers, parliamentarian, and all the GFWC and GLR appointees for their precise and concise presentations. All were well-prepared and enthused and ready to share. And our International Officers! Wow. Babs, Sheila, and Debbie, how can I thank you for what YOU do for GFWC every day. You inspire us! Not only is the current administration making great strides in bringing GFWC back to relevancy, but the next administrations are certain to keep the movement alive. They are the embodiment of leadership and they want to take us along with them. I think we need to add a new tag line-"LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!"

As we settle into our club year, please support the GFWC Capital Campaign, your domestic violence shelter, CCI, Operation Smile, PCAA, the USO, and our other partners. Invite a friend to your next meeting. Why should you have all the fun and not share the opportunity? Please support your officers, local, district, and state. Hopefully I will be invited to your state convention and I can sit with you and enjoy the fellowship and learn more about GFWC.

Speaking of the GFWC Capital Campaign we Great Lakes Region members can be so proud that the GLR Board voted to make a generous donation of \$5,000 to this important endeavor. With that magnificent donation we have been awarded the privilege of having a room at GFWC Headquarters named for OUR GREAT REGION!!!

I want to close by saying a huge THANK YOU to the GLR Board members for the beautiful crossed-stitched keepsake box, the jewelry, and the heart-felt personal notes. I will treasure them always.

2014-2016 GFWC Great Lakes Region Officers' Reports

President's Report October 2015

Tric Heepe



It has been a short four months since we last met. Our Semi-annual meeting in Memphis was a fast-paced 120 minutes of chocolate, State Convention highlights, reports, and chocolate. Since June, it is impossible to estimate the number of emails that have passed between Ohio and Indiana. I have been in constant contact with the Ohio President, Conference Planner, Linda Crish, Pre-registration Chairman Carolyn Adams and of course Conference Chairman Marjean Sizemore. Those of you who have been involved in Conference Planning, know what we have been doing. Those of you who have not yet had the pleasure, just know that everything possible has been done by our Ohio hostesses to ensure that you have a fun-filled, energizing weekend. We have worked many hours to see that you have a seamless weekend that looks so easy!

I had the honor to attend the GFWC Board of Directors meeting in Washington D.C. in August. Our staff and volunteers arranged for the day of a lifetime. GFWC in DC. A White House briefing complete with some of the most influential and impressive female leaders in the City. That was not enough, so we toured the Women in Military Service Museum (WMSA) and were welcomed by the most decorated female general in American history. No trip to DC is complete without witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery and a driving tour of many historical parts of the grounds. Although my ankles were as big as my thighs, I did not skip the Smithsonian Museum of American History, where I saw the first American Flag. Yes, it was a day to remember and to tell my grandchildren.

The actual board meeting was very productive, efficiently run, and of course fun. The support given us by Babs and Sheila has been tremendous. They have not dictated but have worked with us to ensure the GFWC message is delivered, but with the Region touch.

The Communiqué has continued to be the pride of the Region. Editor Patrice Booze has pushed and prodded me by email and phone calls to ensure an informative and timely newsletter.

It is so hard to believe that it is already time to be electing new officers. I have had such a wonderful time serving as your Region President and look forward to the next administration. I plan to do everything I can do to ensure the next administration is even better than this one. I have shared all forms, letters, agendas and scripts to help make their life easier, just as has been done for me by the former presidents, Debbie and Linda.

I am hoping that I will be invited to attend the five state conventions. I hope to attend them all!

I thank you again for the tremendous opportunity to serve as your Region President.

Vice President's Report October 2015

Lin Wilken



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

As President Heepe requested last October...just one thing. As GFWC GLR Vice President, I have been busy fulfilling the many tenets of the installation message from Arizona and the outlined requirements of the Vice President position in our Standing Rules. So, it is difficult to provide a snapshot of just one thing since last October in Michigan.

As GFWC GLR Vice President it has been my pleasure to organize presentations from the great Great Lakes Leaders in Memphis and for the recent GFWC GLR Annual Meeting. They are a fantastic team to work with and make the waters of the great lakes shine with their efforts to improve the communities of the Midwest. If you missed the Sunday morning reports these leaders selected from the outstanding clubs of their states, please see the small synopsis found elsewhere in this issue of the Communiqué. (Pages 18-21)

Vendors and fund raising are an important part of my activities and I hope you came prepared to support the vendors who brought you so many exciting gift ideas to choose from at GFWC GLR in Toledo. New and repeat vendors were at the Park Inn to greet you. Trisha Shaffer of Illinois was the winner of the "Pear of Stars" Award on Sunday, with her completed Vendor Bingo Card covered with stickers. Ask her about the Trophy that keeps on giving.

Of course that one thing you hadn't seen was "unwrapped" in Toledo. That search for a proper way to "thank" our GFWC GLR Great President for her tireless and dedicated commitment to the region was unwrapped in Toledo. I appreciate the contribution of personal memories that each member of the 2014 -2016 Board of Directors has contributed to this "thank you".

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

2014-2016 GFWC Great Lakes Region Officers' Reports

(Continued)

Secretary's Report October 2015 Paula Schlice

Since my last report, I have attended the GFWC convention and the Great Lakes Region semi-annual meeting in Memphis. The opportunity to take a riverboat cruise with one of my fellow officers was a great way to spend an afternoon. The opportunity to renew friendships and cultivate new friends is one of the wonderful benefits of attending the annual GFWC convention.



The minutes of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Semi-Annual meetings were typed and sent to the committees appointed to approve them.

Treasurer's Report October 2015 Patricia Heitman

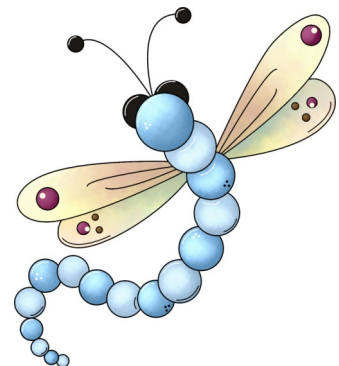
It has been my pleasure as Treasurer to have completed the following tasks pertaining to my position:

- 1) Attended GFWC Great Lakes Region Luncheon in Memphis.
- 2) Worked with the Budget Committee in preparation of the Proposed Budget for 2015-2016. Presented the Budget at the GFWC Great Lakes Meeting at which time it was adopted.
- 3) Prepared all necessary financial reports for the GFWC Great Lakes Region Luncheon and presented same at the meeting.
- 4) Received all income, deposited same in the Bank of Pontiac and made the proper entries into the checkbook and general ledger.
- 5) Paid all expenses as requested and made the proper entries into the checkbook and general ledger.
- 6) Reconciled the bank statements on a monthly basis.
- 7) Compiled and copied all the necessary financial reports for the GFWC Great Lakes Conference in Toledo.



Facts and Myths about Dragonflies

- From the time a dragonfly egg hatches, it can live anywhere from six months to six years, but only about two months as an actual dragonfly. (fact, most of the time spent is as a nymph in the water before the dragonfly's metamorphosis into a full grown dragonfly.)
- There are many different representations of the dragonfly; it all comes down to which culture you happen to be in. For instance, if you are in Japan, the dragonfly symbolizes a new light and joy. Some animal symbolism has the dragonfly representing good luck, prosperity, swiftness, purity, harmony and strength. Some Native Americans believe dragonflies are the souls of the dead. There are also many cultures that believe that the meaning of a dragonfly is happiness, courage and subconscious thoughts. It is also believed that if you see two dragonflies paired together that they represent love and maturity.
- Dragonflies have two pairs of wings. The wings are mostly transparent and move very fast, so it often appears that they have more than two pairs.
- Though many people fear them, dragonflies cause no harm to humans whatsoever. They are often curious toward humans and will fly around you for that reason, but they do not sting or bite.





Over the years, GFWC women have been good stewards beginning with the purchase of our wonderful HQ buildings.

In 1922 our then president Alice Winter felt the need for us to have a permanent presence in Washington, DC.

The purchase of our buildings was made possible through various sources but most notably through the generosity of five clubwomen who stepped forward with gifts of \$1,000 each. The sale was finalized on April 1, 1922.

That same spirit still exists to this day. When we kicked off the campaign in Memphis in June it was greeted with much interest and enthusiasm. Some gifts have already been received and we are on our way to meeting our goal of \$5 Million.

The timing of the campaign will coincide with the centennial of GFWC calling 1734 N Street HOME! We start now...and we aim to finish, meet – well likely exceed our goal – by 2022.

Shortly we will be distributing a beautiful brochure describing the Campaign and a Commitment Card for you to use should you wish to participate. *(Distributed at GFWC GLR Region Conference)*

Some of you may already have decided how you would like to participate. But most of you might want to think about and circle back later.

The materials further define the campaign, ways you can give, and specific information about naming opportunities.

Many of our early donors were individuals but we are now beginning to have more interest from various groups – clubs, affinity groups of past leaders, state federations, and more.

You are already leaving a legacy through your work and dedication to your communities. This allows you to leave a legacy with GFWC and for the future of GFWC.

It is about bricks and mortar...and MORE. This campaign is a capital campaign so it is in part about the buildings. But it is also about the programming, the projects, the needs that we meet by having a presence and a reputation for getting things done!

Gifts of all types and sizes are welcome – and the brochure describes that. *(Brochures will be sent in a separate email to the GFWC GLR Newsletter distribution list)* Gifts for immediate use are certainly welcome as are planned gifts. Planned giving is often a mutually beneficial process and we hope you will consider GFWC when you do your own financial planning.

We do have an endowment fund established for this campaign and we invite you to direct your funds to that if you wish.

We also have many designated funds to which you can direct your donations.

We realize there may be some questions about the structure of the funds and the endowment. If you choose to direct your gifts to the endowment, you are directing us to only spend interest generated by your contribution. This is certainly appreciated and will help secure the future through responsible investments and stewardship through the years.

A gift through The Campaign for the Future directed to the immediate needs of GFWC will do just that – allow us to address immediate needs of the facility as we prepare for the 100th Anniversary of our home.

The GFWC Campaign for the Future

(Continued)

Planned Giving sometimes gets confused with endowment giving. I will do my best to clear up any confusion along those lines...

Gifts to the campaign can come in any form – outright cash, check, recurring gifts, appreciated stock transfers, real estate, personal property, and more. Planned gifts can also come in many forms – bequests, insurance, stocks, annuities, retirement plans, and more.

Any and all of these gifts may be designated to the overall campaign or can be directed to the endowment fund. It is up to you as the donor to make that choice.

Whatever you prefer to give, and however you choose to give, I just want to say I hope you will participate and be part of GFWC's future by being part of **The Campaign for the Future**.

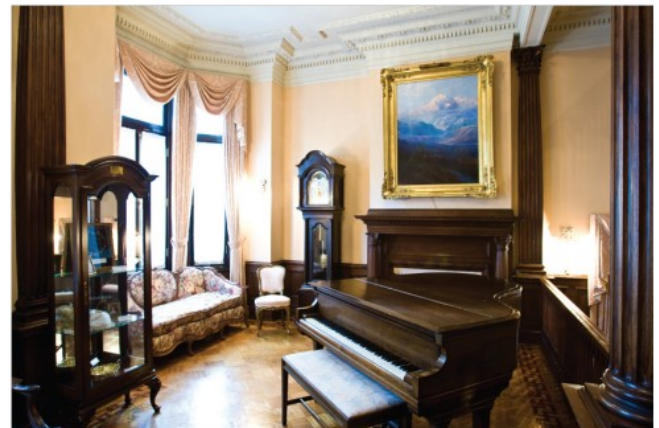
President Condon and I will be here to answer any questions you may have, you can certainly reach out to us if you have questions later.

There are several donors in this room – to you I say thank you! There are also many who have given generously in the past to any number of projects and specific campaigns. Thank you as well.

Ladies, this is a pivotal time for GFWC and our stock is on the rise. Please consider investing in us today so that tomorrow will be even more exciting than we can imagine!

NOTE:

Clubs, districts and members have any questions, feel free to contact **Deb Strahanoski**, GFWC Capital Campaign Chairman at (815) 953-4829 | debbie@wiscpa.net or **Rosemary Thomas**, GFWC Chief Operating Officers at GFWC Headquarters (202) 347-3168 | rthomas@gfwc.org.



HERE'S THE LATEST BUZZ FOR GLR!

By: GFWC Conservation Chairman Teresa Sanford-Shippett (IL)



Happy OAK-tober! The White Oak is Illinois state tree but these suggestions will work for pretty much any tree program! (Handed out on tables were tree activities). I'm sure you've heard we have a NEW conservation partner! I am excited to introduce you to **THE NATURE GENERATION**. The TNG group is a DC based non-profit that focuses on environmental stewardship and promotes it through programs and learning tools that support the principles of *Read Green* and *Teach Green*.

Read Green uses the National Green Earth Book Awards to recognize books in several age categories and conveys the message of environmental stewardship. TNG selects winning authors and illustrators in five separate categories who capture the wonder of nature and the importance of caring for the environment in their books. On October 1 of this year a reception was held at the National Press Club in Washington DC. One of the winning books this year is a picture book entitled: The Promise by Nicola Davie. Quoting their Board Chairman, "These books will engage and inspire children and young adults in a way that only fantastic stories like these truly can."

Teach Green emphasizes their focus on our nation's youth to inspire this next generation to carry the mantle forward. Their plan is to enrich their experience with nature and outdoor projects so when they become adults they can care about and think about the "footprint" they leave on our earth. Teach Green strives to educate youth and encourage them to look at expanding studies in the field of sustainability, environmental science, alternative and green technology. They have several "how to" project kits on topics and projects related to any number of environmental issues, for example creating way stations for monarch butterflies. Additionally, they have created several online instructional environmental games for classrooms and these tools are available for no cost! TNG group aspires to teach environmental stewardship to individuals, businesses, and communities.

Quoting **The Nature Generation**, "We are responsive and responsible. We are innovative and practical. We are multigenerational. We are collaborative. We love to do what we do. We hope to engage your interest, your talent, your support and passion."

GFWC... imagine what we can do together with this vibrant organization! Go to <http://www.natgen.org> and look for the GFWC tab to see projects and activities that they suggest for GFWC members. Together we can make a difference by *living the volunteer spirit!*

A Donor Bill of Rights

PHILANTHROPY is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. *To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.*
2. *To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.*
3. *To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.*
4. *To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.*
5. *To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.*
6. *To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.*
7. *To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.*
8. *To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.*
9. *To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.*
10. *To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.*

Developed By

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FUND RAISING COUNSEL (AAFRC)
ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE PHILANTHROPY (AHP)
COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION (CASE)
ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS (AFP)

Endorsed By

(IN FORMATION)
INDEPENDENT SECTOR
NATIONAL CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (NCDC)
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PLANNED GIVING (NCPG)
COUNCIL FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (CRD)
UNITED WAY OF AMERICA

Easy and unique 50/50 raffle ideas - in lieu of traditional raffle tickets

Presented by GFWC Fundraising Committee member Patricia Heitman (IL)

PLAYING CARDS:

1. Members buy a card
2. Sell as many as you can, but make sure if more than one deck is sold the card backs are different
3. Cut the sold card in half - give one half to the purchaser and keep one half for the draw
4. Drawing the winner can be done with a bit of flair
 - to announce the winner, all participants would be asked to stand/raise their cards
 - the winning card is drawn - say it is the 3 of hearts
 - the people with spades would be asked to sit...the people with diamonds would be asked to sit...the people holding numbers over 10 would be asked to sit (any variation can be used)
 - and so on until you have your winner standing/holding card
5. Winner has the lucky card



HEADS/TAILS:

1. • Paddles/fans of some sort would be sold - with heads on one side and tails on the other
2. • To announce the winner, all participants would stand/hold up their paddles/fans with their choice-heads or tails
3. • Coin tossed - winners continue to stand, non-winners sit down
4. • Coin tossed - winners continue to stand, non-winners sit down
5. • And so on till the winner(s) are left standing/holding paddles/fans
6. • In case of a tie - pot would be split



MARDI GRAS BEADS:

1. • Mardi Gras beads are sold and then worn
2. • Members may purchase as many as they want
3. • Members who purchased beads stand and choose heads or tails (place hands on head or bottom)
4. • Coin tossed - winners do nothing, non-winners take off one Mardi Gras bead
5. • Coin tossed - winners do nothing, non-winners take off one Mardi Gras bead
6. • And so on till the winner(s) is the last one still wearing Mardi Gras bead



LOLLIPOPS:

1. • Numbered lollipops are sold
2. • Make a sheet of numbers to match those on the lollipops
3. • Numbers are cut out and put into the draw container
4. • For more excitement follow suggestions from drawing the winner with a bit of flair from Playing Cards
5. • Winner has the lucky number



TIPS:

Any substitutions/adaptations of the above can be used.
Fundraisers can be designated for any cause/project.
Have fun!

Compiled by:

Donna Shibley
GFWC Fundraising Chairman
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GFWC Credentials

By: GFWC Credentials Committee Members Lin Wilken (OH) & Lucy Devine (IN)

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

Wow, what a great time the GFWC Credentials Committee had in Memphis! GFWC has made the process much easier and the GFWC staff members were very helpful in making things move smoothly.



We enjoyed helping you find your tickets, meeting rooms, vendors and mostly finding your friends in GFWC. Credentials is a fast paced job with lots of hills and valleys for our committee; but we are ready for the job. After all, we have had at least one practice run. We had the pleasure of meeting new members and welcoming them to their first Convention as well as connecting with long time members and friends.

The Credentials Committee offers the "hands-on" driven volunteer lots of activity, so if you are ever asked to join the team, give a hearty "yes" and know you will feel you have accomplished something by the end of the very first day.

Our next chance to greet you at a GFWC event will be in Maryland in June 2016, at the 126th Annual GFWC Convention. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces at Registration and this year at the Elections table. Don't forget to follow the directions to verify your credentials and be ready to "vote" in Maryland. If you or your club leaders aren't sure about your eligibility just ask one of us. We don't want you to miss out on the opportunity to take part in the voting.



"We'll be waiting for you in Maryland"

GFWC Bylaws

By: GFWC Bylaws Committee Member Debbie Bach (IL)

Madam President...

The GFWC Bylaws committee meets bi-annually, at the Fall Board of Directors' meeting and again for two days at GFWC Headquarters.



All proposed amendments to the Bylaws are presented to the Executive Committee for review prior to presentation to the delegates at the Annual International Convention. The Committee is comprised of the Chairman from NJ and 5 additional members from AL, WA, NC, ME, and me from IL. This past winter, the committee was privileged to reside at our beautiful Headquarters building in the newly renovated "West Wing".

I am sure that you know each GFWC state organization has the privilege of submitting proposed amendments to the GFWC Bylaws. As written in Article XII (12), section 12.1, Standing Committees B) Bylaws, the Bylaws Committee "shall consider any amendments suggested by the Executive Committee and amendments that are proposed by a State Federation or the Board of Directors and submitted to the committee chairman by the first of November."

Once the proposed Bylaws have been finalized and printed in the CALL to the Convention, it is each delegate's responsibility to their club, state, and to GFWC to fully review the proposals prior to their presentation at Convention. The definition of "fully review" includes reading the proposals in context with the entire existing Bylaw, not simply the proposed changes to the section that are presented in the Call.



This is your organization. Be informed and plan to be an involved part of the discussion during the presentation of proposed amendments at the GFWC Convention.



A Collect for the Clubman By Mary Stewart

Presented by 2014-2016 -GFWC GLR Treasurer Pat Heitman (IL)

Keep us, O God, from pettiness

A single utterance may good or evil thoughts inspire; one little spark rekindled may set a town on fire.

Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed

Give what you can, and then give more of the love you've held back in store. Lovingly share all you possess. Your reward will be labeled happiness. For the love that you give, comes back twofold, and what you receive is more precious than gold.

Let us be done with fault-finding

Until your heart has felt the sting of criticizing tongue, you cannot taste the salty tears a wounded soul has wrung.

And leave off self-seeking

Time is not measured by the years that you live, but by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give - so what does it matter how long we live, if as long as we unselfishly give.

May we put away all pretense, and meet each other face to face

Resolve: to strip the soul of all pretense, to hold each day in reverence, to keep the head and heart apace, to make this world a worthwhile place.

Without self-pity and without prejudice

May I never give way to self-pity and sorrow, may I always be sure of a better tomorrow. Why must there be hatred? Greed and Strife? Do we need such shadow here in life?

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous

Until you have walked a second mile in someone else's shoes, or stood an hour in the heat of hurts you did not choose; unless you've walked a mile or more along a thorny road, you cannot feel another's need to know his trying load.

Let us take time for all things

Life's made for living, and giving and sharing, knowing and showing and daring and caring. Life's made for doing, pursuing of dreams, sowing and growing, whatever the means.

Make us grow calm, serene, gentle

Speak gently, let no harsh words mar the good we might do here. One day at a time to be patient and strong, to be calm under trial and sweet under wrongs. I ask my Creator and Father above, to keep me serene in His Grace and His Love.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid

Lord, give me courage to be true, to you in all I say and do. Give me Your love to keep me sweet, to everyone I chance to meet. Give me your power to keep me strong, grant me your presence all day long. Give me the Faith that all may see how very real you are to me. Give me the wisdom to choose the best. Help me perform each task with zest. Give me vision to see your plan. Use me, Lord, wherever you can.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences

For the little things are bigger, than we often stop to figure. What makes life worth living, is our giving and forgiving. And forgiving bitter trifles, that the right word often stifles.

That in the big things of life we are at one

We all have a share in the beauty, we all have a part in the plan. What does it matter what duty falls on the lot of man? Making a roof for the weather or building a house for a King. Only by working together have men accomplished a thing.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all

It is in loving, not in being loved, the heart finds its quest; it is giving, not in getting, our lives are blessed. For who knows what hearts are breaking in the silence of the night? Just that extra prayer you whisper may help someone see the light.

And, O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind.

Make me too brave to live or be unkind, make me too understanding, too, to mind little hurts companions give; and friends the careless hurts that one quite intends. May I forget what ought to be forgotten, and recall, unailing, all that ought to be recalled. Each kindly thing, forgetting what might sting. To all upon my way, day after day, let me be joy, be hope - let my life sing.

2015 Region Leadership Presentation Information

T Jablanski, GFWC Leadership Chairman
Trisha Schafer, Committee Member (IL)

10 minutes

Handout – mirror card

Thank you Madame President
Good Afternoon.

Last year LEADERSHIP shared with you that LEADERSHIP is A VERB – In other words Leadership is not a title or position but an Action. We would like to continue that message in a fun way today.

Leaders have and need many qualities to be successful. Giving and following directions is certainly one of them.

Leadership has put together a – Let's See How Well You Follow Directions game.

Everyone should have a plate and marker/pen
So let's get started.

LEADERS Give AND Follow Directions:

I'll give – you follow.

Paper Plate Instructions

Items needed: Paper plates & pens/markers for each person – token gift/s for winner/s

You will give a series of instructions for members to draw on their paper plates (that are on their heads) without looking.

Ready

Here are the instructions:

1. Place the paper plate on your head
2. Draw a circle on the plate
3. Draw a face in the circle
4. Draw a hat on the head
5. Draw some earrings
6. Write GFWC on the plate



After the six steps have been given, OK, Now... everyone look at their plates.

<Insert lots of laughing and revelry as people share their ridiculous drawings.>

1. 2 points if you actually drew a circle
2. 2 points if your face is in the circle
3. 2 point if your earring/s touch the face
4. 1 point if your hat is on straight
5. 2 points if your GFWC looks like GFWC
6. 3 points if your face has a smile

Total possible points – 12 – Did anyone get all 12 points?

Have a small token gift to the winners – I will be giving them a Caramel Cream (sometimes called Bulls eye candy) or other suggestions could be an Apple, Smarties or a Winner sticker

LEADERSHIP and Expectations

Giving and following directions is just one of many qualities we need from our Leaders. We hold our Leaders accountable for their actions.

In other words... we have expectations from our leaders.

You had expectations when you walked into this room. Right?

You expected to have a seat.

You expected to have some food, perhaps.

Maybe you expected to have some kind of an agenda or paper program.

You expected to hear some speakers or presentations

It's the leadership that will be responsible for whatever the outcome of this meeting is.

Leadership Addresses Challenges.

Maybe there were some challenges – maybe the printer ran out of ink for the agendas, maybe the speaker got caught up in traffic.

You still expected your seat, your meal, an agenda, a presentation etc.

It is their Leadership abilities that pulled this all together.

2015 Region Leadership Presentation Information

(Continued from previous page)

LEADERSHIP and Accountability

And we hold our LEADERS accountable to make it happen in the same way we are holding you responsible for what happens in your state and in your club.

Last year we gave you the results of a membership survey and shared with you that the number one reason women are leaving the federation was a lack of leadership.

Pause /

So, ladies we'd like you to ponder the following questions which come from last year's GFWC Membership survey, reports and feedback. *(These questions were written to be spoken softly, slowly and deliberately)*

Are you so insecure that you don't allow others to change things up?

Are your meetings a hot mess?

Are you the bully? *Pause/* No really – Are you the bully? (Using strength or power to harm or intimidate others?!)

Are you the one pointing at others when you should be thinking ...what's my role in this?

Are you stuck in bylaw hell?

Are you too comfortable with just doing what you have always done? Definition of insanity: Same people, doing the same thing – expecting a different result.

Are you saying yes when you should be saying no?

Are you just giving lip service to mentoring others?

Are you misusing your well-earned trust to the disadvantage of your state federation? Your club?

Are you the example or are you the warning?

Are you the one they look at when we emphasize "Let us forget not to be kind"?

Are you too stubborn to let go for fear that they will forget your contributions?

Are you all about the ROLE and not the GOAL?



Leaders Build Others UP

Leaders need to know how to build others UP. You know I wasn't born a Leader – / (Insert your own personal experience here)

Remember a time when you felt rejected..... and feel those moments as a reminder of how important it is to be kind to each other. One of the foundations of Emotional Intelligence is – Know the difference between feelings and actions: All feelings are acceptable ...but not all actions. Remember LEADERS build others up.

So, do some self-reflection. Please take some time, reflect on the ways that you can improve your leadership skills and we are all sure to benefit.



To quote John Wooden – "The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example. Old ways won't open new doors."

Let us always remember: True Leaders don't create followers... they create MORE Leaders!!

Thank You



"Hand in Hand – Together We Can"

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

GFWC members know that child abuse, dating and partner violence, sexual assault and elder abuse thrive when we are silent. When we speak up, we can dispel the myths and provide facts to gain the support to get state and national policies changed.

During this conference, we are using our hands as a symbol for the theme: "Hand in Hand – Together We Can" make a difference towards ending Domestic Violence. We ask to use the little purple hands on your tables as a canvas and place an "I Can" message on it. Tell us what you can do in any of these five areas:

1. **Legislation:** I can speak to my legislators regarding supporting legislation that will help domestic violence victims from the youngest to the oldest. I can sign up at the GFWC Legislative Action Center, and become a GFWC advocate in action.
2. **Education:** I can look for ways to communicate healthy relationships with our middle and high school students.
3. **Communication:** I can be a voice for the victim who has no voice or I can listen when the victim finds their voice.
4. **Participation:** I can contact my local shelter and ask them what they need and then encourage my club to do a project to meet those needs.
5. **Collaboration:** I can work with other civic organizations and conduct awareness days in our community – such as Elder Abuse Awareness. I can support the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarships and help victims step away from abuse.

No message is too large or too small, just make it something that is meaningful to you and you can commit to doing.

When your hand is done we will post it on our tri-fold, take pictures and post to our Facebook pages and Websites to spread the word. Take this project back to your club and do it together, post the picture and then follow through with your commitment.

We know many of you took advantage of the opportunity to support GFWC Signature Project's partner, Prevent Child Abuse America's new campaign: Grand Parents for GREAT Childhoods by purchasing pinwheels for your grandchildren or grandparents. Can you just imagine the site it is going to be and the statement it is going to make when all those pinwheels are planted on the Washington DC's National Mall? And how honored your grandchildren are going to feel when they know their name is on one of those pinwheels? I can't wait to see the pictures. There is a paper on your table for you to list the pinwheels purchased to be planted Oct. 13th – we would like to see the impact made by members of the Great Lakes Region.*

Although Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins and ends in October, GFWC members are encouraged to continually educate the public about the prevalence of abuse, encourage people to take action to end abuse, and let survivors know GFWC members are a part of a village who stands with them and provides them comfort and support.

Domestic Violence is not a singular incident and causes victims, as well as witnesses and bystanders, to suffer pain and loss. It shatters the sense of well-being that allows people to thrive. It also can cause health problems that last a lifetime, and diminishes a child's prospects in school and in life. It's an insidious problem deeply rooted in our culture – and these numbers taken from the statistics of the several organizations** prove it:

I wasn't sure about sharing this first statistic with you for it made me a little uncomfortable mentioning Americans killed in the line of duty and domestic violence victims together but then I realized, sharing it, may help you comprehend the magnitude of the problem.

1. **6,488** American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2001 and 2012 and **11,766** American women were murdered by current or ex male partners during that same time. That's nearly *double* the amount of casualties lost during *war*.
2. **Three (3) women are murdered** every day by a current or former male partner and a woman is **beaten every 9 seconds in the United States**.
3. **1 in 7** men will be victims of violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Worldwide, it has been proven, men who were exposed to domestic violence as children are 3 to 4 times more likely to become abusers as adults.
4. In all domestic violence cases, **(98%) ninety-eight percent** of them involve financial abuse. The number one reason domestic violence survivors stay or return to the abusive relationship is because the abuser controls their money supply, leaving them with no financial resources to step away.
5. **Thirty eight million, twenty-eight thousand (38,028,000)** women have experienced physical partner violence in their lifetimes and **ten million (10,000,000)** children are exposed to domestic violence every year.

GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

(Continued from previous page)

The GFWC Signature Project Committee asks that you to share these facts with your club members and communities and encourage them to be a part of the solution.

Please stop by and visit the table to find some new ideas to take back to your clubs and share with us some of your own ideas. We love to hear what your clubs are doing.

Don't forget to support our GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarships by giving a donation in our "purple" shoe or purple pig or take an opportunity on the very full "Planting the seeds" basket and plant the seed for a new life for the survivor and her family and help her step away from the abuse. All proceeds from the basket will go to the GFWC Survivor's Scholarship Fund for I purchased the basket at one of my own club's money making projects and have donated it to give you an incentive to support the scholarships. The contents of the basket are varied and valued at over \$150.00, so don't miss this opportunity.*** During a club meeting last Thursday I didn't even take the basket and my helper, Kathy Schoen sold \$57.00 worth of opportunities and I was able to help members purchase sixteen pinwheels!

(Some of our members are not computer literate.) Thanks Kathy and thanks for helping take care of the display table. Thank you to my other helpers here too, Evelyn Bachman, Patrice Booze, and Rainy Morrison.

Thank you for your attention and all you do to educate others and support the victims.

*The count for the pinwheels purchased by GLR members attending the conference was 102 pinwheels and \$925.00 donated. The report said 1,500 pinwheels were planted so GLR members accounted for almost 10% of them – great job ladies – what a way to support our Signature Project partner PCAA!

** (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Department of Justice statistics, and the National Coalition for Homelessness)

***The proceeds from the basket opportunity sales were \$339.00 – the "Put a Nail In It" campaign by giving a donation to paint one nail purple with polish supplied by this member netted \$37.43 for a total of \$376.43 and through the generous donations from two members we were able to donate \$500.00 to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund. Thank you very much ladies!!



2015 Region Resolutions Workshop GFWC Legislation Chairman & Resolution Committee Member Becky Weber (IL)

Have you ever seen something on television and said, "Isn't there a law against that?"

Or seen something happen and said, "They should pass a law against that."

Who's 'they'? It's me – and you – and you. It's all of us – just one of us alone makes a small ripple in a puddle but if we put all our voices together we will make an ocean tidal wave – headed right for our legislators.

And we may not get it done with just one call or one email or one project. We need to stick with what we want until our message becomes a reality.

Think about the suffragettes – they saw that women were not treated like individuals – they were really property of their husbands. They had no way to voice their opinions – to elect the people they thought could represent their wishes. It wasn't until the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920 that women received the right to vote – **144** years after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

But let's be more current in our thinking. Let's go to 1968 – things were pretty progressive then – women's lib had already started. Guess what? Maybe not - here are some things a women could not do in 1968:

1. **Get a divorce with some degree of ease.** Before the No Fault Divorce law in 1969, spouses had to show the faults of the other party, such as adultery, and could easily be overturned by recrimination.
2. **Be acknowledged in the Boston Marathon.** Women could not don their running shoes until 1972!
3. **Get a credit card.** Until the Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1974, women were not able to apply for credit. In 1975, the first women's bank was opened.
4. **Report cases of sexual harassment in the workplace.** The first time that a court recognized sexual harassment in the workplace was in 1977 and it wasn't until 1980 that sexual harassment was officially defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
5. **Keep her job if she was pregnant.** Until the Pregnancy Discrimination Act in 1978, women could be fired from their workplace for being pregnant.

And if you think 1968 was a long time ago – how about these:

6. **Refuse to have sex with her husband.** The mid 70s saw most states recognize marital rape and in 1993 it became criminalized in all 50 states. Nevertheless, marital rape is still often treated differently to other forms of rape in some states even today.
7. **Compete as a boxer in the Olympics.** It wasn't until the 2012 London Olympics that women could compete in boxing in the Olympics.

Every one of these issues – and so many more – came about through grass roots organizations and groups of concerned citizens – just like GFWC. One person wanted to right a wrong and told someone else who got more people involved – and found a way to get lots of people involved – the noise to legislators became so loud, they had to pay attention – after all it's their constituents who keep them in office.

How can you make a difference about something you think is important?? The first thing you need to do is to join the GFWC Legislative Alert.

How many receive the Legislative Alerts? Wow – that's great. For those of you who have not yet joined, you will receive a handout today with the simple steps to get connected. Please feel free to share it with others in your club, district and state. And if you have a smart phone or laptop with you, see me any time during the conference and we will get you signed up. Or if you would rather have me do it for you, there is a sheet going around. Put the contact information requested and I will handle the enrollment for you. Somebody please be sure the sheet gets back to me. And please PRINT.

A GFWC Legislative Alert keeps us informed on legislation pending and needed on the issues that are important to us. You have the immediate opportunity to share your opinions directly with your Congressional Representatives and Senators. And you can say it as a member of GFWC. All Alerts sent out for action are covered by a GFWC Resolution, which are our position on issues. There is an Alert that came out recently concerning the attempt to pass legislation allowing triple trailers on all national roads – that means interstates in every state. The amendment has been tacked onto a \$55 billion transportation and infrastructure bill. The bill has already passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for passage during the current legislative session running from September to December. This is an issue that both Pennsylvania and New Jersey federations have been fighting for years. Think about a truck with THREE trailers - each 55 feet in length barreling across Interstate 80 or up and down Interstate 55 in the rain or snow or ice. It's scary enough when the weather is clear.

2015 Region Resolutions Workshop

(Continued from previous page)

The second way is to write a RESOLUTION. Easy to do. Let's take a pretend idea: Make Federation Day a National Holiday.

Here is a sample resolution:

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service,

WHEREAS, GFWC members transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact, and;

WHEREAS, Since 1890, GFWC's impact has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe, therefore

RESOLVED, THAT the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to contact their legislators and request that April 24 be designated a national holiday in recognition of its past, present and future commitment to community service.

OK it's written – now what?

1. Bring it to your club for a vote.
2. After it passes send the resolution to your state's Resolutions Chairman. If there is no Resolutions Chairman, send it directly to your state president. Make sure you adhere to any deadlines for submission.
3. After it is reviewed by the State Resolutions Committee, the resolution will be presented for adoption at the State Convention.
4. Once adopted, it will be sent by the state to the GFWC Resolutions Committee.
5. After it is reviewed by the GFWC Resolutions Committee, the resolution will be presented for adoption at the GFWC Convention.

Granted this is a complex process and it can take as much as two years to get from you to the club to the state to GFWC. But it is worth the effort to be able to get the shouting of GFWC members behind you.

One thing to remember – if time is critical, you can contact a member of the GFWC Resolutions Committee and ask them to bring your club's resolution to the committee directly. This committee has the right to present a resolution for adoption. Be sure that the resolution is national in scope and germane to the workings of GFWC.

Here are some issues that are facing us today that you may want to address:

- Road rules for Self-Driving Vehicles.
- Establishing a mandate for hacked companies to disclose breaches and how soon the disclosure must be.
- Elimination of billing of sexual assault victims by hospitals
- Reports say victims of sexual assaults were being billed for medical treatment - with possible legislation relative to emergency room procedures and administration of the Crime Victims Reparations Fund.

If you care and make the effort, here's what can happen:

1. 1898: GFWC unanimously passed a resolution against child labor. With the help of clubwoman Jane Addams (1860-1935), child labor became a major area of concern for the Federation. In 1901, Addams headed the Federation's Child Labor Committee to work for the maintenance and improvement of child labor laws.
2. 1899: GFWC's Chicago Woman's Club supported the juvenile court law, the first ever to be passed in the United States. This law became the model for all subsequent juvenile court laws, many of which were passed at the insistence of GFWC clubwomen. Julia Lathrop led this club effort and was appointed by President William Howard Taft to head the Children's Bureau in 1912.
3. 1906: GFWC member Alice Lakey (from NJ) spearheaded a letter and telegram writing campaign, which was essential to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. Dr. Harvey Wiley, the first chief of the Pure Food Bureau, attributed the bill's passing to GFWC and stated, "Trust them [GFWC] to put the ball over the goal line every time."
4. 1916: GFWC worked with the Children's Bureau to promote National Baby Week. Over 2,000 clubs participated by focusing on infant and maternal mortality, birth registration, and public health facilities. The Federation's efforts resulted in the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921), which advanced maternal education.
5. 1990s: GFWC actively supported the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; and legislation supporting handgun control.

Are you the next Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, or Alice Lakey?

2015 Region GFWC Communications and Public Relations Workshop GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee Member Lisa Hedrick (DH)

It's time to VOTE!!

GFWC has always been in the forefront of great causes, and the GFWC Campaign season is now upon us! I am Lisa Hedrick, the GFWC Communications and Public Relations Campaign Manager! This is a new position, (and I have to admit I am self appointed) but it is not limited to just me. Anyone can be a GFWC Campaign Manager.

The qualifications are as follows:

1. Active member of a GFWC Club
2. Willingness to share information about your club
3. The drive to recruit more members

As the campaign seasons begin, let's get ahead of all of the politicians and share our cause. GFWC needs YOU! We want to continue all of the great work that our clubs are accomplishing, and also SHARE that information with your constituents! We want quality information shared on all forms of Social media and print media whenever possible.

This is our organizations 125th anniversary year. Let's share our history and what we do with everyone. We are celebrating all year long, so hold a birthday party for your members and your community to spread the word.

During the GFWC Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, the GFWC Communications and Public Relations committee held a workshop where we shared 125 ways to promote GFWC. We had a handout that was shared and I have copies of it for all of you here today. SHOW your members HOW TO PROMOTE! Please make copies and share it with your club and your state. It is also available on the website at GFWC.org.

How do you make your VOTES count! Did you know that GFWC has a Facebook page with almost 6,000 "LIKES"? The more you "SHARE" the Facebook posts with your Facebook Page and your club's page, the longer it stays alive and the more people will see it.



Facebook is in the process of adding a "donation" button which will allow clubs and nonprofit organizations to accept donation through Facebook via Pay Pal or other collection groups. Also think about using Go Fund Me or Crowd Rise to collect funds for your group.

Do you know what Pinterest is? GFWC now has a Pinterest Page/Board as of July 2015. Go to Pinterest.com and share the pins with your own board, or make a Pinterest board for your club. You can add PINS for locations of meetings, table decoration ideas, recipes and exercise routines. There is so much to look at, pin and share! If you don't know what Pinterest is, find a new Federation friend that does know what Pinterest is and get together and share. Brainstorming is the best part of coming together at a region or state meeting.

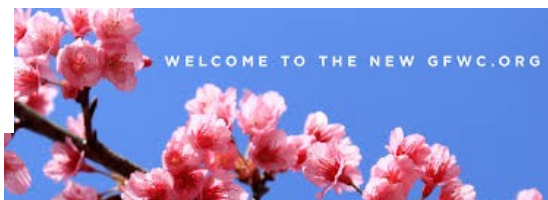


Do you receive the News and Notes? GFWC is preparing to launch a new look in September. While we are constantly striving to produce the best looking publications and materials, this change will serve a more practical purpose. We have heard from several members that have stopped receiving *News&Notes* entirely, or only receive it sporadically. We have looked into this issue and, simply put, the service we use to distribute *News&Notes* and other communications pieces, is not performing up to our standards. We are transitioning to a new service that will hopefully alleviate these issues. In

the interim, for those who continue to experience issues with receiving the e-newsletter, you can access it [via our Facebook page](#) on Saturday morning, or [through our website](#), where it is posted Monday morning. Please let GFWC know if you are still not receiving News & Notes.



Instagram



"Outstanding Club Projects From Around Our GREAT Lakes"

Easter Bag Project by GFWC Illinois Darien Woman's Club (IL)

Easter Bag Project: Two local nursing homes contacted for their residents' needs.



Home #1. 190 bags contained 1 each: memo pad, pen, tissue pack, emery board; 3 Hershey kisses and 2 pieces of hard candy. Candy packaged in smaller bag to go in Easter bag.

Home #2. 160 bags contained 1 each: shampoo, body lotion, shower gel or hair conditioner, emery board or pen; 1 bag of M&Ms or 3 Hershey kisses, and 2 pieces of hard candy. Candy packaged in smaller bag to go in Easter bag.

Note inserted in each bag noting bag was prepared and delivered by Darien Woman's Club.

The bags were packed by members after meeting.

Mini toiletries are collected from members from their hotel stays. Clipboard passed at meeting to sign up to donate other items. Candy and items still needed are purchased to complete the bags.

Other Notable Projects: Christmas Giving Tree; Community Christmas Soap/Cleaning product collection; Children's Clothing Resales; Creative Youth Art Fair.



Club Unity Project Benefits TWO Worthy Causes (IL)

This unique fundraising tablescape is the gorgeous result of a Club Unity project submitted by several GFWC Illinois Junior Clubs – Joliet JWC, Elgin JWC, Plainfield JWC, Lombard JWC, and Princeton JWC. The clubs banded together to decorate a table in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy Counties. The table not only supported BBBS, **where it raised over \$1,000 for the organization, but then the table was graciously donated BACK to GFWC-Illinois as a fundraising opportunity for the Women's History and Resource Center!**

We decided to raffle off the table at our 120th GFWC Illinois Convention and one lucky winner took home:

- 8 Marquis Waterford crystal flutes
- 8 gold chargers
- 8 Pope Gosser Victorian plates, salad plates, fruit bowls, tea cups and saucers
- Pope Gosser Victorian serving platter
- 45-piece Oneida silverware setting
- 8 Victorian broach napkin holders and linen napkins
- Victorian hat & hat stand
- Shabby chic candelabras
- Victorian candy jars
- 60 inch round Victorian lace tablecloth



"Outstanding Club Projects From Around Our GREAT Lakes" (Continued)

Dismas House Project by Progress Club of South Bend, Indiana (IN)

The Progress Club of South Bend, Indiana is happy to report on their special project with the Dismas House. Dismas House is a residential home for ex-offenders who served prison time for non-violent crimes. This home atmosphere provides opportunities for the residents to filter back into the community. Notre Dame provides students from social studies programs to work with the residents for job placement and acclimation with society.

Progress Club prepares evening meals serving up to 20 people which may include some family members of the residents. Toiletries are continuously donated along with furniture and smaller household items for when permanent housing is identified. The club also provides a Christmas party for the residents. They have raised funds through various events and annually meet with their Board of Directors and have received honors from them. Dismas House is about reconciliation and the Progress Club is a contributing factor to this mission.

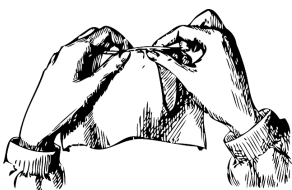


Yarn Bomb Project GFWC Hastings Women's Club (MI)

The 48 member GFWC Hastings Women's Club of Michigan was highlighted in a feature story April 2014 with a Yarn Bomb Celebration for GFWC Federation Day. The concept of this idea was our president at that time had seen similar events in some of her travels. Our club members signed up for this project, knitted and crocheted pieces of yard to be stitched onto tangible objects in front of our local library, like light posts, bike racks, trees etc. We also had donated a tree to the library for our 120th anniversary; this was adorned with a special "sweater" of club colors green and white, with GFWC stitched onto it by one of our creative club members! A sign recognizing GFWC Federation Day was placed in front of the "bombs" and the project chair contacted Fox news to set up the reporters for the TV PR spot.

Our members wore GFWC attire, board members and other club members were asked to be there in mass, members were interviewed by a reporter who was given a club brochure and project information by the project chair. Members interviewed were asked questions about membership, club history and why they like being involved in the club. The broadcast aired on the 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. news and was also available as a link on-line.

A news article and pictures were also placed in the local newspaper about this event and contact information for anyone interested in the club for membership or more information.



"Outstanding Club Projects From Around Our GREAT Lakes" (Continued)

MAKE IT, BAKE IT, TAKE IT AUCTION by Wintersville Women's Club (OH)

The Wintersville Women's Club began this project 8 years ago to support a GED reception at a local Community College. The first year's goal was \$250. The project has grown and is now a 100% profit project.

Members make, bake or purchase something. Many of the members bring guests, and anyone can bid.

The items are displayed to help people decide. The auctioneer is a member and starts the bidding. The Club Treasurer records the bids as they are made.

If there are multiple jars of one item (homemade pickles or jam), the winning bidder has the option to purchase all the jars or one. If she buys one jar, the other jars are purchased by others for the same price.

The profit from this auction has also enabled us to provide another scholarship in our community.

This year's profit was \$1,335.00



"Downton Abbey" Tea by Boardman Poland Junior Women's League Benefits Domestic Violence Shelter



The Boardman Poland Junior Women's League held a "Downton Abbey" themed tea. The historic church where it was held was decorated in a vintage theme with lace tablecloths, royal blue table runners, centerpieces with vintage bicycles and ivory roses, and photos of the characters from "Downton Abbey" in picture frames. Each guest was given a favor of a tea light with a honey stick and tea bags attached and also a pretty tea cup and saucer.

The guests heard an entertaining speech with a Power Point presentation by a Horticulture Educator at Mill Creek Park. She spoke about the history of the beautiful Fellows Riverside Garden, and about Elizabeth Fellows, the woman who dreamt of a garden which would be available for the public to enjoy and who gifted the land for the park.

The ladies enjoyed traditional goodies of tea, punch, finger sandwiches, cookies, and scones with clotted cream.

A total of \$1,700 dollars was raised and donated to Sojourner House a Domestic Violence shelter for women and children.




"Outstanding Club Projects From Around Our GREAT Lakes" (Continued)

The Woman's Club of Kenosha Wisconsin Celebrates 125 of Community Service

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye....a club in Wisconsin, celebrating its 125th anniversary, has done some remarkable things to garner new members.

The mission of the Woman's Club of Kenosha is to support the welfare of the community, recognize the needs of others and enjoy a sisterhood in which lasting friendships and personal growth occur through volunteer service.

 They own their historic building located on a beautiful square in downtown Kenosha. In an effort to keep their membership growing they have participated in the town's marketplace – handing out their brochure and a card listing club events. They sponsor a "blue ribbon campaign" in support of their police officers.

Woman's Club of Kenosha regularly meets during the day over lunch. In order to attract working women, they are starting a night time division.

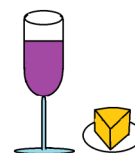


They have also extended membership to men. The Mayor is a member.

They regularly partner with the Kenosha Juniors.



They hold events and routinely invite the public – Tea with Eleanor Roosevelt, Wine and Cheese reception, Beauty and the Beast Princess Tea to name a few.



Family of the Month Project by Oconomowoc Junior Woman's Club (WI)

Working with 4 agencies, the Family of the Month Project focuses on helping families leaving homeless situations and the women's shelter, but also grandparents receiving custody or families in need of an item or two. All are below the poverty line.

An article in the newspaper explains the current family's need plus an update on how we helped the last family(ies). Our project brings the community together to give a kind and helping hand to others by sharing surplus furniture, delivering items to our (donated!) storage units, and some by spending hours delivering, hauling, and setting up furniture, beds, etc.

In just 3 years, we've worked with 55 families, donating beds, furniture, kitchen items, bath towels, etc - over \$25,000 in household goods.

But it's the children that really warm your heart as we bring in item after item into their apartment. My favorite is when the child(ren) touch or sit on their bed that we just set up for them – complete with sheets, a warm and cheerful comforter, and new pillow.

A County caseworker wrote: "More than giving bunk beds, your organization gives people hope. So many of our clients seldom see kindness. Your help teaches our clients that there are good, trustworthy people out there. It tells them they are worthwhile and not forgotten by the world."



"News From Around Our GREAT Lakes" Experiences of the 2015 GFWC Great Lakes Region's GFWC LEADS Graduates

Where My GFWC Journey Took Me

By GFWC Illinois' LEADS Graduate Amy Vicioso (IL)

As I arrived to the GFWC LEADS seminar in Memphis, I couldn't contain my excitement on where my GFWC Journey was taking me. To be in a room with 40 other women who all share the same passion as you and who all want to further their GFWC Journey was truly amazing.



The day went by quickly as we soaked up information like sponges. We heard from past and present GFWC Executives as well as past GFWC LEADS graduates. We learned about how effective ice breakers are in group settings and the power of technology to reach more people to attend events and club functions. We also learned about the finer points of public speaking, something I paid close attention to, as I get queasy when having to give a public speech. Through informative skits, we were shown ways to resolve conflicts that may arise with members and clubs.

However, to me, the best topics that we covered were on Leadership Styles and Generational Differences. As these topics made me sit up, think and reflect. We first learned that there are many different leadership styles. Everyone has leadership skills and an effective leader can identify them within others and showcase them. Wow, just as the ladies in my District did for me! The most interesting to me was the topic on Generational Differences. It was very informative talking through how the generation that a person grows up in, helps shape them and influences them on why they do what they do. What is going on in the world during different generations can influence a person on their communication style, their participation, their motivation and their awareness. In our current time, we are spanning 4 generations. Think about it, we have those that grew up during the Depression and lived through World War II, known as the Silent Generation, and due to these influences they are fiercely loyal and hardworking. We have a generation that grew up in the 60's and all the prolific changes and influences that decade alone brought to the Baby Boomer Generation. We also have those that grew up in Generation X the "Me/MTV/Reaganomics" generation and finally the Millennials Generation that is driven by technology and social media and looks at how to work smarter, not harder. Understanding the influences in each of these generations can help determine how to lead. By knowing and understanding your audience you can help everyone work together more efficiently. I believe this topic is key to understand to help grow GFWC for the next 125 years!

Even now, as I reflect back on my GFWC LEADS experience, I am still blown away. Before going to GFWC LEADS I never really thought of myself as a leader. What I know now is that sometimes we are our own worst critics. If it wasn't for longtime members in my District that empowered me and pointed out my leadership qualities, I might never have applied. Now, I am excited and fired up to see where my GFWC Journey will take me next. I am thankful to the ladies of GFWC Illinois for selecting me to be their delegate. I am proud to say that I am a GFWC LEADS Graduate and an alumnus of such an elite and empowering group. Especially being a graduate of the GFWC LEADS Program during GFWC's 125th Anniversary Convention.

In closing, I hope you take from my experience that we are all leaders and that what you learn in GFWC LEADS can be applied to your GFWC life and your everyday life. Don't sell yourself short and talk yourself out of, for whatever reason, applying for this amazing experience. You can do this! You are GFWC LEADS material. See where your GFWC Journey will take you!

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My experience at GFWC LEADS

By GFWC Indiana's LEADS Graduate T. Lubelski (IN)

I would like to first thank the ladies of GFWC Indiana for selecting me to be their 2015 GFWC LEADS candidate. It was an honor.



GFWC LEADS taught me how important it is to have table stimulation, what I mean by that is, when you're in a room where you have little or no connection with who is sitting at your table. Some may find it hard to connect. The leaders taught us how to break the ice by assigning us all to 5 different groups; giving us all a kazoo and having each group sing a song thru our kazoo. My song was "I'm a little tea pot", immediately everyone was laughing and having fun. After that sharing became much easier and all seated in the room seem to have connected like we all knew each other for years. Wow, great move leaders.

After that we learned about inter-generational differences and how it doesn't matter how you get from A to Z only that you arrive. We also learned how important it was to identify and learn to deal with conflict resolution. We acted out many scenarios, it was very educational and eye opening.

We also learned about an "app" called evite.com, at evite.com you can make an online invitation for anything from a dinner party to a bag bingo. It not only saves paper but our environment as well. We all shared one of our club's successful fundraising projects. It was both amusing and interesting to hear what other clubs are doing to raise money and help in their communities.

I will be stronger in my leadership after this experience and I am very inspired to go do great things. With all that I would like to leave you with my life quote from Helen Keller " I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble."

I'm Not a Woo Person. Was I going to Fit in GFWC LEADS?

By GFWC Michigan's LEADS Graduate Maureen Doyle Nelson (MI)



I represented GFWC Michigan as the 2015 GFWC LEADS candidate to the GFWC International Convention in Memphis, TN this past June. Anyone that knows me, knows that I am not really a woo person. A couple of years ago, I took a class at our parish that would lead us to our strengths. It was called, "Living Your Strengths". I loved this class and wasn't surprised by some of my strengths. Being a woo person, essentially "the cheerleader" for the group, was not one of my strengths though. So, was I going to fit in at GFWC LEADS?

The GFWC LEADS class was a packed day, I learned some new things, and had experience with some items discussed, but wanted something more. I thought of my strengths class and although I am not a woo person, my other strengths have helped me to work in different organizations through the years. My strengths were developer, connectedness, context, belief and empathy. I love my family and genealogy which explained my connect-edness and context strengths. I have a strong faith and my empathy shows when I try to get along and see the other persons' side to conflicts or when I reach out to others in need.

My developer strength was tapped when I got the idea to poll the whole 2015 GFWC LEADS class to send me two or three really good ideas from their own GFWC club to share. I didn't get a big response, but I did collect some. I sent out another email and may get more ideas which I will pass on to the whole class. That will give all of us some great ideas to bring to our own club.

So, while not being a woo person to say, "rah rah", I try to use my strengths to work in other ways. There is a place for the woo person, the thinker, the developer, the organizer, because together we work to make our club strong. We really need everyone and if you know your strengths, or can chose people with complimenting strengths to work on projects, lots will get done.

The GFWC LEADS class is an informative day and will help you find your spot in GFWC, in other organizations and in life. You can enjoy a life of service, for that is what we are called to do, to serve others.

GFWC LEADS Inspires

By GFWC Ohio's GFWC LEADS Graduate Sharon Franklin (OH)

Forty GFWC LEADS representatives, and one GFWC Taiwan member, participated in the day-long training seminar led by T. Jablanski, the 2014-2016 Leadership Chairman. During breakfast, we were welcomed and briefed by GFWC International President, Babs Condon and Rosemary Thomas, GFWC Chief Operating Officer. It was inspiring.



Members of the 2014-2016 Leadership Committee led us in a fun Mixer – Leaders – Toot Your Own Horn. We broke into groups five groups and each group had to play a kazoo and perform a song. My group played "I'm a Little Tea Pot" and each group member took turns in the middle of the circle: if you were in GFWC less than two years; more than ten years; or other questions. It was an "ice breaker" to use at club meetings.

I especially liked the Presentation Skills workshop by Marian St. Clair, GFWC Secretary, on "Your Public Best – Leaders Present." In the introduction, "take the lid off" and, in the body, you need to tell them what you want to say. For the punchline – end with emphasis!

Darrell Jones gave a Legislative Update before lunch and we also had a presentation to help leaders understand themselves and the personalities of those around them entitled "Personal – Passionate – Personalities."

We took a personality quiz.

T. Jablanski led the discussion on Conversations and Generational Differences to help leaders deal with the variations in age and interests of members. Next, Facilitating and Conflict Resolution was presented. Leaders to Listen and Respond.

A presentation was given on Protocol and Parliamentary Procedures. Leaders need to know and follow the rules. Handouts and quiz distributed with a "Robert's Rules for Dummies." Examples: What's an Agenda? What's a quorum?

Suggestions for ways to communicate were shared. Begin a statement with the pronoun YOU and it may establish an atmosphere of conflict by sounding accusatory or judgmental. When we begin with the pronoun of I, we're taking responsibility for what we're saying and how we're feeling. Start out by saying: I feel.... (name that feeling); When... (describe the behavior); Because... (provide a reason); I need... (tell what would make it better for you). We can take back to our club to improve our communication skills.

We gathered for a class photo at the end of the day. We became GFWC LEADS Graduates and were presented with certificates of participation, a GFWC check for partial fee reimbursement, received our GFWC LEADS pin and, had a photo opportunity with GFWC International President Babs Condon.

It was an honor to attend as the Ohio GFWC LEADS candidate at the 2015 GFWC Annual International Convention. I hope I can inspire others in the same way I've been inspired by the officers and graduates. I hope you'll think about applying as a GFWC LEADS candidate for the upcoming year.



The Rocking Road to Memphis!

By GFWC Wisconsin's GFWC LEADS Graduate Susan J. Bednarek (WI)

My name is Susan J. Bednarek and I am honored to have represented GFWC Wisconsin at the GFWC LEADS Seminar in Memphis, TN.



My journey to Memphis started a little before 6 am on June 10, 2015 with my mother and two sisters, Christine and Ruth. We drove the whole day arriving in Memphis about 6 pm.

I was so excited that I got to the room where the seminar was held early. I was not the only one who was early; Carol Styles GFWC LEADS candidate from Washington State was early as well. This gave us the opportunity to help T Jablanski and her committee set things up. We started the day with breakfast and getting to know our fellow table companions. When breakfast was over the fun started with a mixer in which each person was to pick a kazoo and depending on what color kazoo you had you were to meet in a group that had the same color kazoo and play a song on it. It was quiet funny since some were not sure which end to hum in to correctly. We all shared facts about ourselves and our clubs.

After getting to know each other we went on to learn about social media and how it can benefit our club's. We also learned how to use evite.com to create invitations to events

that can be printed or sent via e-mail. It was fun creating the invitations. I created one I am going to use for a membership drive in September.

We learned about what our presentation style is and how it nurtures our leadership and how to write a great speech/workshop. We learned how to navigate on the GFWC web site to the legislation site and how to contact our state legislators and what issues each state is supporting.

We learned about the generational conversations and how the older/younger members view each other. These topics lead to Facilitating and Conflict Resolution and how to resolve them. We ended the day learning about Protocol & Parliamentary Procedures.

Saturday started with the GFWC LEADS breakfast, where I received my certificate and my GFWC LEADS pin. After breakfast the start of the 2015 GFWC International Convention began with the opening ceremony. Being this was my first International Convention, I found the opening ceremony fascinating. I truly enjoyed my first convention and hope to be able to attend more in the future.

I cannot say enough about my experience as a GFWC LEADS candidate and what it meant to me to represent the state of Wisconsin. I strongly recommend nominating someone from your club to attend GFWC LEADS



GFWC GLR Member News

It is with heavy heart that Renee Horist of Michigan shared the loss of clubwoman Carol VonRogov last month. Carol served as GFWC Michigan's Director of Junior Clubs during the 2004-2006 Administration. For further details please email Renee at renee@horistjr.com.



Our condolences go out to Trisha Schafer (IL) and her family on the loss of her beloved Father James Topham.

James Topham

James Topham, age 78, of Harvard, formerly of Aurora, passed away on Friday, November 13, 2015, at Harvard Rest Haven in Harvard.



A Memorial Service will be held at later date. Inurnment will be at Aurora Cemetery. There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Harvard Rest Haven or the American Legion Post #61 of Sutton. Higby-McQuiston Mortuary is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be e-mailed to the family through the mortuary website at www.higbymortuary.com.

OBITUARY: JAMES TOPHAM

James Harold Topham, the son of Fredrick and Minnie (Wright) Topham, was born at Giltner, Nebraska on July 7, 1937 and passed away at Harvard, Nebraska on November 13, 2015, at the age of 78.

Jim grew up in Aurora and attended Aurora Public Schools. He served his country in the United States Navy from January of 1956 until September of 1957.

Following his discharge he returned back to Aurora and worked for Cargill until 1967. He then worked for the Ordinance Plant until 1974 when he started working for the Department of Roads in July of 1975 until his retirement in 2002. Jim made his home in Sutton for the last 21 years. Jim also did carpentry and welding, trimming trees for firewood and hauling grain for many farmers.

Jim enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing and in his younger days he played baseball, softball and boxed for the golden gloves. He was involved in stock cars and the annual demolition derby. Jim was a member of the American Legion Post #61 in Sutton and a lifetime member of National Rifle Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Betty Lange.

Those who remain to cherish his memory are his children, Steve (Deborah) Chidester, Trisha (Darren) Schafer, Heidi (Art) Smithson, Haven Topham and step-son, Jonathan (Melissa) Welsh; 5 grandchildren, Clay Chidester, Samantha Smithson Burns (John Burns), Katy Smithson, Stephen Schafer and Colton Schafer; 3 step-grandchildren, Jaydon, Trayton, and Michael Welsh; great-grandson, Rodney Schafer and nephew, Randall Lange.

Share your sympathies and/or favorite memories at higbymort@hamilton.net. Messages will be given to the family.