

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS



GFWC BYLAWS COMMITTEE SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Barbara D. Whitaker, PRP, Chairman

THE GFWC BYLAWS COMMITTEE

It is an honor to introduce the 2022-2024 GFWC Bylaws Committee

- Chairman Barbara D. Whitaker, PRP, from Ohio E: gfwcglr@sbcglobal.net
- Deen Meloro, PRP, from New Jersey E: djm808@mac.com
- Arlene Creeden from Rhode Island E: acreedden@gmail.com
- Tammie McCoy from Mississippi E: mcco3938@bellsouth.net
- Trina Behbanai from Virginia E: volunteertrina@gmail.com
- Diane Addante, RP, GFWC Parliamentarian, serves as advisor. daddante@GFWC.org

WHAT ARE BYLAWS?

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), 12th edition, section 2.8 defines bylaws as the document of a society that contains its own basic rules relating principally to itself as an organization. The bylaws define the primary characteristics of the organization, prescribe how the society functions, and include all the rules that the society considers so important that they cannot be changed without previous notice and the vote of a large majority, and cannot be suspended.

WHAT THE GFWC BYLAWS COMMITTEE DOES

FROM THE GFWC BYLAWS

ARTICLE XII

Committees

Section 12.1 Standing Committees.

B) Bylaws. The Parliamentarian shall serve as an advisor to the committee. This Committee shall submit proposed amendments to the Bylaws for consideration at the GFWC annual convention, as provided in Article XVII. It shall consider amendments suggested by the Executive Committee. It shall also consider amendments that are proposed by the Board of Directors, Standing and Special Committees, or a State Federation, when submitted to the committee chairman by the first of November. It shall submit the proposed bylaws amendments to the Executive Committee for review. The committee may submit standing rules to the Executive Committee for consideration.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any annual convention by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been appended to the call to the convention. Amendments of an emergency nature may be considered at annual convention without previous notice but require approval by a nine-tenths majority vote of those present and voting.

HOW AMENDMENTS TO THE GFWC BYLAWS ARE PROCESSED

State Federation and GFWC Committees, as well as the GFWC Executive Committee and Board of Directors, may propose amendments. Individual members, clubs, and GFWC Regions may not submit proposed amendments. Proposed amendments are submitted to the Bylaws Committee Chairman by NOVEMBER 1 of each year. The committee considers these proposals and submits a report to the GFWC Executive Committee at a meeting held in the year's first quarter (usually JANUARY). The proposed amendments are published in the Call to the GFWC Annual Convention (no later than APRIL 15). The amendments are presented at the Annual Convention (usually in JUNE), and action is taken. Those amendments approved by the delegates are then placed in the GFWC Bylaws, and an updated document is made available to the membership soon after the close of the convention.

When proposing an amendment, state the Article and any section or subsection where the amendment is to be made. State exactly what is to be amended, what is to be removed, added, or otherwise changed, and how the bylaw should read if the amendment is adopted. Give the reason why this change is proposed. If the proposal comes from a State Federation, include the pages of minutes of the meeting where this proposal was presented to the delegates and voted upon, along with verification by the state president and state recording secretary.

GFWC RESOURCES FOR YOU

News and Notes will contain information about bylaws each month.

Bylaws Committee Newsletter will be published each quarter.

Leadership Toolkit in the Digital Library on the GFWC website has sample bylaws for clubs and cyber clubs.

GFWC Bylaws and GFWC Standing Rules are also in the Digital Library, as is *Writing Bylaws, a Guide for GFWC Clubs*

GFWC Clubwoman also will contain articles about bylaws.

OTHER RESOURCES

From the National Association of Parliamentarians Store at www.parliamentarians.org

“Your Governing Documents – The Road to Good Governance”

“Focus on Leadership Series - Bylaws (Updated RONR 12th Edition)”

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th edition, can be found at many bookstores and online booksellers.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief, 3rd edition, can also be found at many bookstores and online booksellers.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The GFWC Bylaws Committee does more than just review the GFWC Bylaws and Standing Rules. If you have questions about your state or club bylaws that your state parliamentarian cannot answer, you may contact the GFWC Bylaws Committee Chairman or the GFWC Parliamentarian. The best way is by email. In addition to your question(s), please attach the entire set of the constitution (if any), bylaws, and standing rules for the state or club in question. Often the answer is found elsewhere in the document.