



OCEANS OF NEWS OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

Organized - April 20, 1897-Federated - October 25, 1897 - Incorporated - June 23, 1926

GFWC MOTTO – “UNITY IN DIVERSITY”

GFWC/CT MOTTO-“We are not known so much by what we keep, but what we share.”

Volume 1, Issue 1- May-December 2022-Communications and Public Relations Committee Members. (CPR) Patricia Thal; Editor: patriciathal@aim.com GFWC/CT website www.gfwcct.org Georgeann Kishner; Website Manager: gkishner@comcast.net FB, Instagram & Social Media-Wendy Clery; 3rd VP-Membership <https://www.facebook.com/gfwcct> & <https://www.instagram.com/gfwcct/> wendy.clery@gmail.com

President's Message

Katherine DeBurra; GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024

President's Theme: Individually we are one wave- together we are an OCEAN!

State Project: Women's Health & Wellness

Dear Sisters in Federation,

I am honored and proud to serve as your GFWC/CT State President for the past 6 months plus, (already.) I have received so much support from you in joining this administration in many roles, taking on leadership positions. I am appreciative of every Member of our GFWC/CT Clubs and appreciate all the service you contribute to our communities! Your work on Membership, truly our most important goal has been most appreciated. Keep sharing our organization in any way that you can-FB -newsletters-articles in local papers. Share that we really do make the world more beautiful than we found it every day! When others see what we do -they naturally want to be part of it! Many Clubs are embracing Women's Health & Wellness. I've visited more than a dozen Clubs to date and each one had something dedicated to Health and Wellness! We know that with a healthy mind and body we can achieve many goals. I wish you all good health and happiness in accomplishing your goals in the coming year! Thank you for being such wonderful women -my friends and sisters in federation and thank you for the confidence that you have put in me! I will do my very best! Please call or email when you have a question, input or ideas and all are most welcome! Email: threesams@sbcglobal.net or Cell: 203-671-1528. Text is the easiest for me to answer but I will answer as quickly as I can to either.

I have asked Pat Thal; Past President; The Women's Club of Madison to be our Newsletter Editor and she graciously said yes. We will review our last few months and try to print a seasonal edition -with possibly a goal of 4 times a year. I hope you enjoy looking at some of the photos and information. Please, also send us things that your Club is doing for the website, social media and this publication. Georgeann Kishner is our talented website Manager and so appreciated in that role! Wendy Clery is always looking for photos for our social media pages and has done so much already to update those. She has organized a social media workshop and if you'd like one in your area -please reach out to her and see if a date and place can work. She is also very much appreciated.

Reporting times are upon us and sometimes we hear –“ugh”. But I say-It's brag time! Documents have been sent to Presidents in email and are on the website. Brag about your projects, success and cooperative ventures together! When we share those creative ideas, we all benefit from the input and get ideas that can really be fun for our own Clubs. International also gets to qualify for grants for us by your number of projects, volunteer hours, monetary donations and in-kind donations. So be sure to share those details on the summary pages.

A Happy and HEALTHY New Year 2023 to all of you!

Fondly, Kathy

Heather Spencer; 2nd Vice-President 2022-2024



Please see below the Reporting email that was sent to Presidents! Documents are also on the website: gfwcct.org

Please see the following notes and attachments and keep for reference in your reporting journey. Share with your reporting person if you are not the one to complete reports. (Attachments on website.) gfwcct.org

1. The first Reporting form is for your Chairman to report back to you with project statistics. (It is named below as GFWC/CT Reporting form for projects) We created that a couple of years ago to get (hopefully) members to complete a report right after a project. These are just for your reference and do not need to be returned to Heather.

2 & 3. The second reporting document for reference is named Updated programs from GFWC Washington below. This is a list of our CSP programs that were "updated" about 2 years ago. You should pick your program that "matches" a category to report under from here or the Manual which is the next document. (**#3**) Some categories are referred to as "advancement" such as Leadership, WHRC (Women's History) and Legislation/Public Policy, etc. Please remember that you can only report on each project in one category so you must pick a fit. Often the projects can fit many of these categories but remember you can only use each project once.

4. The next 2 forms attached are the Narrative forms for you to describe your projects. These are to be returned to Heather which are then sent to our State Chairman for judging for District and State Awards and we gather statistics to send to DC from these as well.

5. The next document is a summary of your projects ("Don't forget that reporting is based on the calendar year vs. club year., so all projects completed in 2022 for this reporting session." (January 2022-December 2022). Please think about the projects that your Clubs did in each area and return these back to Heather with your reports.

I know this email seems so long but actually there are reference items to assist you in your selections of projects to the right category followed by the reporting documents to capture the information.

Please complete and get these back to Heather

(heatherspencergfwc@yahoo.com) in **one** email, if possible, by **January 15th** as turn around to State Chairman and reporting for us to DC is set dates and we must adhere to those. Heather does work full-time and will answer questions as soon as she possibly can. Truly have some fun with the reporting-write a description that makes a Chairman picture your project and BRAG because we know the Clubs in CT are amazing!

Heather Spencer; 2nd Vice-President: GFWC/CT 2022-2024
Katherine DeBurra; State President; GFWC/CT 2022-2024

The GFWC Community Service Programs and Special Programs have been re-structured to help clubs light a path for the future and better address the current and upcoming needs of its communities.



1. **Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**-The Signature Program's goal is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of violence against women in communities across the nation—and the globe. Areas of focus include Intimate Partner Violence, Child Abuse, Teen Dating, Campus Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Violence Against Native American Women, Military Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.
2. **Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children**-GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The Program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level.
3. **Arts and Culture Community Service Program**-The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support art and cultural programs in their clubs and communities, and to expand understanding on every level, from local and regional to national and international. Our goal is to create projects that include crafts, dance, drama, food, music, and other manifestations of art and culture that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place.
4. **Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program**-The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society

and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. This Community Service Program highlights and encourages citizenship; crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry, and homeless; and our military personnel and veterans.

5. **Education and Libraries Community Service Program**-We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities. These projects promote libraries, literacy, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.
6. **Environment Community Service Program**-The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature. Environmental degradation is cumulative and many scientists warn that we are at a tipping point. There is no time like the present to act.
7. **Health and Wellness Community Service Program**-The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our well-being, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas.



Each year clubs are requested to submit reports of their various club activities during the previous calendar year. These reports serve a dual purpose. The club reports allow GFWC/CT Chairmen to judge clubs' activities and to select state and district winners among the various Community Service Program and Advancement Area categories. Award certificates are presented at District Days for district awards and at the May Convention for state awards.



These club reports allow GFWC/CT to report the activities of our clubs and our state federation to GFWC. GFWC/CT and its clubs are then eligible to be considered for national awards.

Many Thanks to our Connecticut State Chairmen who will help select State Awards, District Day Awards and those reports to be sent to International for our projects in 2022!

Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention-Shari Roguski

Advocates for Children-Donna Recknagel

Arts & Culture-Patty Meglio

Environment-Carolyn Kurtich

Education & Libraries-Andera Freibauer

ESO-Judith Lefelar

Health & Wellness-Sheila Macauley

Civic Engagement & Outreach-Carin Mancini

Veterans-Maddy Marzullo

Legislative Affairs & Resolutions-Deborah Fiore; Chairman

State Project-Women's Health & Wellness-Elizabeth Early

Advancement Area Chairmen: Communications & Public Relations:

Wendy Clery, Georgeann Kishner and Patricia Thal.

Fundraising-Sara Newell & Rainey Pavarini

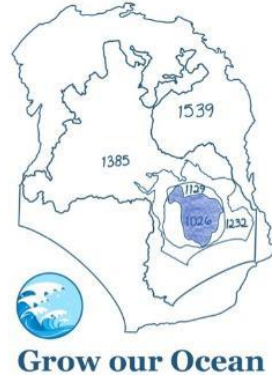
Leadership-Kathy Barnes

Membership-Wendy Clery

WHRC-Jo Ann Bruno

Wendy Clery; 3rd Vice-President 2022-2024

Membership Moment
Wendy Clery, GFWC CT
Wendy.clery@gmail.com



First, I am happy to report that we have 1028 members, which puts us at a full first ocean. 101 members to our next goal, an average of about 4-5 members per club.

The Killingworth Club has improved the most since Fall Conference and overall, they have increased their membership by 47%! They are only one member away from their two year goal. Honorable mention goes to the Terryville Club, gaining 42% and just 2 members away from two year goals. Way to go and keep up the good work everyone!

Membership can sometimes feel like an extra task on top of all the other work we're doing and that can lead to coasting along in the membership department or even neglect. The more we're doing though, the more we need to have a good membership focus. Membership has an impact on every single part of our club life, whether we're recruiting more volunteers, supporting members in leadership training, lending a helping hand on a project, offering a shoulder to cry on in a hard time, celebrating achievements of members individually or as a group, or making lifelong friendships.



When we do these kinds of things for membership, we see benefits not only in quantity of our members but quality. Members who feel appreciated and useful are happier with their club work, not to mention it being good for health and mental well being of the members. Happier members work more enthusiastically and want to invite other friends to join in. When the public sees a club working well together and doing good for the community, they are more likely to support club projects, even if it's not by joining. There are so many benefits.

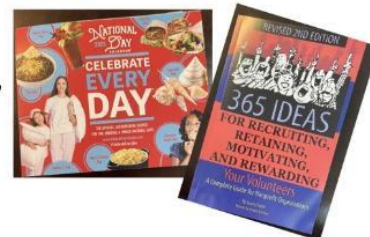
It's so important, too, that if your club is having trouble or even if you just want to mix things up a bit to try something new, please reach out. I want to be of help to you, that's why I accepted this position. The longer we wait to try and fix/improve an issue, the bigger it will get and therefore the more difficult it will be to solve. Please, invite your membership chairmen (or any clubwoman) to reach out to me any time on Facebook, email, etc.

District days are coming already! So exciting! Dates are as follows:
NW District April 1, Nicole Karalli, District President; Maddy Marzullo, Asst District President
NC District April 15, Donna Recknagel, District President; Jean Kehoe, Asst District President
SW District April 11, Janet Jabieski, District President; Nancy Corragio, Asst District President
SE District March 25, Shirley Cavanaugh, District President; Carolyn Della Pietra, Asst District President



I am still offering social media workshops for anyone interested. Choose a date with me and hosting club finds a location. Then we invite surrounding clubs to join in and get ready by sending in questions so I can be sure to cover information that's most helpful for you. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays are usually best days of the week for me, but we can discuss if another date is better for your club.

I would like to encourage you to join the GFWC CT Facebook group for members if you haven't already. For 2023, I will be sharing some ideas for club Facebook posts and membership recruitment, retention, motivation, and rewarding to help support clubs in their goals. We can have discussion in the comments, brainstorming, and answer any questions. I hope you'll all join in and remember the only bad question is an unasked one!



Message from Pam Lerner; Assistant Treasurer 2022-2024



Many thanks to clubs who have sent updated rosters and state dues. It is making my adjustment to the position of Assistant Treasurer much easier.

If you have not received a dues invoice or a request for an updated roster, I apologize, please email me at pamlern41044@aol.com and let me know you have not received the requests.

I am looking forward to working with all the state clubs.

Pam.

Getting to know your By-Laws. (concerning dues) Please see insert below:

Section D. General clubs shall pay annually to the State Federation Five dollars per capita for its total membership, plus fifteen dollars per capita General Federation dues. Juniorette clubs shall pay annually to the State Federation one dollar per capita for its total membership plus ten dollars per capita General Federation dues.

1. All dues shall be due and payable for the year following the close of the Annual Convention of the State Federation upon receipt of the August 31 dues statement. Dues shall be paid to the Assistant Treasurer for the total number of members. A current list of said members, names and addresses shall be filed with the Assistant Treasurer on the GFWC/CT Membership Update form.
 - a. The number of voting delegates for GFWC/CT Fall Conference and the Annual Convention will be based on dues paid to GFWC/CT 10 business days prior to the meeting. If a club's dues have not been paid by said deadlines, voting members for the club are limited to one club president, and past state presidents and executive board members, if any.
 - b. The Assistant Treasurer shall notify in writing any club whose dues are unpaid by November 1 following the Annual Convention. If dues are not paid by January 1, the Treasurer shall report the lapse to the next meeting of the Executive Board which may, at its discretion order the Corresponding Secretary to strike the club from its rolls.
2. Honorary or life membership in a Club does not include gratis membership in the State and/or the General Federation.

*** Reminder...from Stephanie Capasso; Treasurer 2022-2024**

Please use gfwc.ct.treasurer@gmail.com for Treasurer-related business, including budgets, fundraising, district days information, expense reports, etc. **OR**
Stephanie Capasso; Treasurer.

1877 Middletown Ave, Northford, CT 06472 203-868-4863

GFWC/CT - Women's History Challenge

Jo Ann Bruno; GFWC/CT WHRC Chairman



PRESERVING AND WRITING YOUR CLUB HISTORY

All GFWC/CT clubs are invited and encouraged to participate in this "Preserving & Writing your Club History" Challenge in preparation for Women's History Month....March 2023.

How to:

Establish a one-, two- or three-member committee.

Gather you club records - using your yearly reports OR your monthly meeting minutes OR both. Consider including photos.

Decide how you want to organized your records. Will you do it for each club administration OR will you highlight your programs & projects on a yearly OR monthly basis?

Sort and arrange your records - using whatever system works for you.

There is no need to write it in essay form - short, detailed sentences are fine.

Find and establish a location to archive you club history - your Town Library OR your Town Historical Society.

If you already document your club history- when was it last updated?

Mail your Club History Documentation by MARCH 1st, 2023 to:

Jo Ann Bruno. GFWC/CT WHRC Chair
15 Enclave Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611



Let's review some highlights of what we've been up to in the last 6 months:

May Convention and Marion St.Claire and Debbie Fiore pinning President Elect Katherine DeBurra at the May Convention 2022 for the administration 2022-2024.



Proclamation given by the General Assembly the State of Connecticut.



The International Board Installation in New Orleans in June/July 2022.

From left to right-International President 2022-2024-Debra Strahanoski

President's Theme: "A Million Dreams!"

President Elect-Suellen Brazil

Vice President-Wendy Carriker

2nd Vice-President-Jolie Frankfurth

Secretary-Mary Beth Williams

Treasurer-Becky Wright

Director of Junior Clubs-Katie Jones Moydell



Connecticut LEADS candidate Anne Edwards 2022.



Debbie Fiore, Past State President 2020-2022- Charlotte Emerson Brown Award.

First Connecticut State Board

Meeting in July 2022 @ the Café Allegre' in Madison. CT Town of the President.



President K. DeBurra and
the first meeting of the administration.



ALICE Presentation.



Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman and Elizabeth Early; State Project Chairman- Women's Health & Wellness! Let's all connect the dots! Great photo!



Project Idea. GFWC/CT WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADISON

KNITTING PROJECT

Barbara DeRosa, Knitting Project Chairperson

Marian St.Clair; Immediate Past International President GFWC 2020-2022- selected this project as one of her most favorites! News & Notes - <https://www.gfwc.org/news-notes-may-19-2022/> May 19, 2022 edition. Easy to do project and has lasted for more than 22 years of success! Congratulations Barbara and all!

Guest Speaker - Connie Bombaci; Inspirational Author featured on "Dateline" – "Hogan's Hope"





**2 GFWC/CT Scholarship 2022 recipients.
Please share information about our scholarships
within your communities!**

The application is on the website gfwcct.org

Recent discussion of the application understanding includes clarification of it being offered to grad students as is written in the instructions and guidelines. The applicant pool has been mostly college level students and it is clearly defined that a grad student may apply. Good Luck to all who venture to apply!

GFWC Board Meeting in Washington DC. August 2022.



Suffragist Museum in Washington. Connecticut was one of the most influential donors to this beautiful Memorial to promote education and reflection on Women's journey to getting the right to vote!



**L-R: JoAnn Calnen; Past CT State President 2010-2012, K. DeBurra;
State President 2022-2024 & Debbie Fiore; Past CT State President 2020-2022.
Great educational experiences of leadership and some fun too!**

Fall Conference – New Britain Museum of American Art! September 2022.



Fall Conference and some of the Executive Committee.



Past State Presidents Table.
Always supportive and dedicated
to GFWC!



Enjoying the meeting!
Some Members of the Women's Club of Madison.



Prudence Crandall Donations for Domestic & Sexual Violence
Prevention Awareness-Signature GFWC Project!

Thank you to all who donated \$\$\$'s of items, gift cards and money!

Food can be ART too! Luncheon at the Museum! Catering by Gayle
@ What's Cookin' Madison!



Centerpieces creatively
made by Donna Farrell
with flowers donated by
Caitlin Spinnato.



“ARKS” placed on the tables @ Fall Conference to collect change- (ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS) donation to the Children’s Art Programs at the Museum in honor of Advocates for Children’s week that usually falls in the last week of October every year. \$200.
Amanda Shuman-Bisson; Director of Development, Donna Recknegal; Advocates for Children’s CT State Chairman, Kathy & Pam Lerner; Assistant Treasurer. Thank you to Pam and Donna for their suggestions and dedication!



New England Region Conference Rhode Island! September 2022!



Deb Capuano; Co-Convention Chairman , Kathy & Deb Fiore.



Service Project @ NERC with donations of a book from each Club in CT to a shelter for abused children’s recovery in Rhode Island (host State to NERC) .

Thank you for the amazing response to the request for a book from each CLUB in CT!



Wendy Clery; 3rd Vice-President and Heather Spencer;
2nd Vice-President presenting at NERC!

Coming Next Year to CT-New England
Region Conference...

September 21-24, 2023



SAVE THE DATES FOR NERC IN CONNECTICUT!

Some photos of Club visits: East Hartford, Killingworth, , Madison, North Haven,
Terryville ...



CONGRATULATIONS to 2 of our Connecticut Clubs on their wonderful recognition from the Prudence Crandall Center and their work to support our GFWC Signature Program; Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness. The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club & the Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain!



The beautiful tree that the Clubs in Connecticut decorated for the Ronald McDonald House fundraiser- TREES OF HOPE! Thank you to Patty Meglio; Arts & Culture Chairman for the guided direction to do this wonderful program! The tree was decorated with cards from each Club. Thank you for the beautiful cards and the Committee of Members that volunteered to come decorate and put up the tree at the Maritime Center in New Haven.

If you like this idea-let's plan another one for next year to support the Ronald McDonald House!



State Presidents were asked by International to donate a “village” house for display at the Open House in DC that occurs every year, usually the first week in December. As the Presidents theme is “Individually we are a wave and together we are an Ocean” -the Light - “house” was decorated and safely delivered to Headquarters in DC. You can look on the portal for a tour of the entire Open House and display. gfwc.org

Special thanks to Anne Edwards; Member at Large for the donation of the Lighthouse!
Have a suggestion for GFWC/CT that she should share -email her at aunteedwards@gmail.com



The December Meeting was held to honor the National Event from GFWC of *Friendsgiving* honoring Female Veterans with a guest Speaker Terry VandenDolder who served in the Air Force since 1982 and is now a commercial pilot. Senator Christine Cohen joined us, a beautiful Memorial time to honor 2 of our GFWC Past Presidents who passed away in November and we celebrated their memory with friendship and joy for the rest of the meeting. Even a birthday cake (or 2) for our Health & Wellness Chairman-Sheila Macauley!

Happy and Healthy New Year 2023!



Next Meeting -Saturday March 11, 2023 @ Zody's 19th Hole in Stamford –

Theme- “March Into Health!”

This the first newsletter of the administration is dedicated to these 2 wonderful women and their GFWC Service that we all share passions of!
Thank you to Wendy Clery; 3rd Vice-President, Membership who designed these beautiful photos of each of them The 8 x 10 copies at the December Meeting were given to their families.

If anyone would like these photos emailed to them to print, please email Kathy at: threesams@sbcglobal.net



GFWC/CT COLOR- Dark Red
GFWC/CT WEBSITE- www.gfwcct.org
Katherine DeBurra, President-GFWC/CT President's Theme:
Individually we are one wave- together we are an ocean!
State Project: Women's Health and Wellness!
Important due dates: Reports due 1/15/23
LEADS Applications due 2/1/23
Scholarship Applications due 2/10/23

GFWC/CT FLOWER-Mountain Laurel

