



Embracing Leadership

Newsletter from
GFWC Leadership Committee
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2022-2024 GFWC LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Nancy Ames, GFWC Membership Chairman, Jen Nowak, GFWC Communications/Public Relations Chairman, and I would like to thank everyone who presented on the GFWC Advancements and Programs Thumbs Up Thursday feature. We heard from the following chairmen and officers during 2022-2023:

- Juliet Casper, GFWC Legislative Chairman
- Donna Shibley, GFWC Writing Contest Chairman
- Beth Smith, GFWC CIP Chairman
- Sandy Hauenstein, GFWC Education & Libraries Chairman
- Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC 2nd Vice President – When Is a Picture Worth 1,000 Words?
- Theresa Rudder, GFWC Jennie Award Chairman
- Kathryn Sowers, International Affiliates Chairman, featuring the woman’s clubs in Belize and Taiwan

- Susette Redwine & Peggy Barnes, Convention Co-chairs, along with Phyllis Skubic, GFWC Convention & Meetings Chairmen – preview of the convention in Louisville
- Becky Wright, GFWC Treasurer, and GFWC Annual Giving Committee Members Peggy Barnes & Mary Jo Thomas
- Carla Pyle, GFWC WHRC Committee Member and Joanna Church, WHRC Librarian
- President Deb Strahanoski and Director of Member Services Melanie Gisler – GFWC National Day of Service



What a powerful group of women that were featured this past year! If you missed any of these presentations or want to review the content again, they are all pinned to the top of the Forum Facebook page under Featured. Scroll to the right as they are posted with the most recent first.

We are in the process of planning for next year, so let us know if there are any particular topics you would like to have addressed.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs is a unifying force, bringing together local women’s clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With nearly 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by supporting the arts, preserving natural resources, advancing education, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging civic involvement, and working toward world peace and understanding. For more information, please visit www.GFWC.org or call 1-800-443-GFWC (4392).



Here is a recap of the **Teach It Tuesday** offerings from 2022-2023. These can also be found in the Featured area of the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum.

Leadership Area:

- Succession Planning
- How to Create a Strategic Plan for Your Club

Membership Area:

- Member Retention
- Introduction to Club Work
- Using Your Why to Recruit Members

Communication/PR Area:

- Branding
 - Canva
 - Noteworthy Newsletter Tips
- An additional offering in January featured Friendsgiving resources.

Let us know what topics you would like us to feature in 2023-2024.

If you are not a member of the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum, you are missing all these offerings. Search Facebook for this title, fill out the Membership Questions, and we will approve your request to join the Forum.



AWARD ENTRIES AND CLUB CREATIVITY AWARDS

The Leadership Committee members were all involved in the tough process of selecting the top state in each



membership category as well as the club creativity award. We look forward to sharing some of the ideas and projects with you after the awards are presented at the convention.



The Leadership Committee will present a Leadership Workshop during the Annual Convention in Louisville in June. **“Building Leaders through Strategic Planning”** will be the topic. We hope you plan to join us to learn how to create your club’s strategic plan and develop leaders through this process.



Leadership Lending Library

The Woman’s Club of Aurora (IL) created a Leadership Lending Library for members to access resources. The library includes leadership books, folders of dozens of GFWC leadership tools and tips, the GFWC Leadership

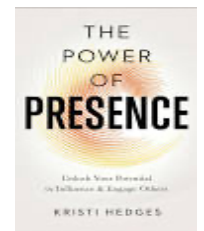
Advancement Guide, protocols, policies, and ideas for invocations, inspirations, and ceremonies. They also printed the GFWC Leadership Toolkit topics. Since so many resources are now digital, the library allows members to easily see resources that they can then access themselves online.

What would you include in your Leadership Lending Library if you created one for your club members? What a great discussion topic for a future meeting. Ask your members what they need to grow their leadership skills.

Check out the Member Portal for more Top Ten Projects. Projects from 2022 should be released in late summer.



The next Leadership ESO Book is *The Power of Presence* by Kristi Hedges. During the last administration, we read *The Inspiration Code* by Kristi Hedges and learned how to crack the code to learn how to be a more inspiring leader. In *The Power of Presence*, Hedges shares more practical tools and strategies to



help us improve our abilities to engage and influence others. Hedges works as a leadership coach specializing in communications. Her books are always helpful and engaging.

We're going to discuss this book differently this time. Instead of a live discussion on Zoom/Facebook Live, I will pose questions on the GFWC Advancement and Programs Forum and on the 2022-2024 GFWC Leadership/LEADS Chairmen Facebook page. Members can respond to the questions in either location and share your experiences and thoughts about the book. Please respond to comments from your fellow members. With everyone being so busy during the summer months, this will be a good time to try this discussion model.

I will pose the questions to start the discussion the week of July 10. Watch these two areas of Facebook and join the discussion.



The **General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)** is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The National Day of Service (NDS) is a day in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address the need, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs are encouraged to join in and organize community service programs (CSPs) in their communities as part of the NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of GFWC.

This year's NDS issue of focus is food insecurity. To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action. Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend to join. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Information and updates about NDS will be in the weekly electronic newsletter *GFWC News & Notes*, Facebook, Instagram, and website, www.GFWC.org. Every week until September 30, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss food insecurity. Stay tuned for additional resources, including a tool kit and a media kit.

To register or for more information, contact Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at MGisler@GFWC.org and copy Deb Strahanoski, International President, at DStrahanoski@GFWC.org. Please include the following in your email: Club Name, Point of Contact, Address, Phone Number, and Email. GFWC will send information, articles, and announcements directly to your club.

Join the more than 200 clubs that have already registered.

Benefits of Belonging to GFWC



Leadership training is one of the benefits of belonging to GFWC.

- LEADS
- Workshops at the annual convention
- LEADS held in your state
- Webinars offered by GFWC
- Teach It Tuesday & Thumbs Up Thursday offerings featured in the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum

What other opportunities does your club or state provide to train new and existing leaders? Contact your Leadership Committee Representative if we can help your state with any training or resources.

