**Minutes GFWC/CT Fall Conference at The Fairview Farms Golf Club, Harwinton, CT -October 28, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Kathy DeBurra; State President called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**Welcome**: Kathy DeBurra welcomed everyone to the Fall Conference to honor our CSP of the Environment. She mentioned that Environmental Chairman in CT; Carolyn Kurtich from the Harwinton Club provided handouts at the registration table, and that each person was dealt a C*onservation card* that said 100 ways to save the planet with suggested ideas to try. At the registration table were handouts from the CT Alzheimer’s Association which our International President, Debra Strahanoski asked us to focus on. A speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association will attend the December State Board Meeting on December 2, 2023 at the Lincoln Culinary Institute in Shelton.

**Inspiration**: Joann Hohensee; GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Club, delivered the Inspiration.

**Pledge of Allegiance**: Terry Zagryn; GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Collect**: Pat Green; GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Club led the Collect.

**Credentials Report**: Donna Farrell; Madison Women’s Club and Convention Chairman reported the following Credentials:

Past State Presidents- 5; Club Presidents- 12; State Board Members/Officers- 63; Voting Delegates/Board Members- 63; Total Voting- 63; Total Non-Voting Delegates-0; Registered Guests-1; Total Attendees-65; District with the Largest Attendance- Southwest; Club with the largest attendance – Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield. Quorum was declared. The aides, Maddy Marzullo, Sally Johnson, and Sue Michaud were introduced and thanked.

**NERC Update**: **Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman.** The theme was the ”Greatest Show in CT!**”** Big top/Carnival décor and entertainment.Excellent responses from all who attended. Thank you to all who helped in so many ways!

**Veterans Chairman**: Maddy Marzullo; Veterans Chairman announced that Veterans Day will be November 11, 2023. Maddy encouraged everyone to attend their hometown celebrations. Wreaths Across America will be coming in December to CT. She said that bags were on each table for donations and a check will be sent to them for wreaths after the meeting.

**Introductions**: Kathy DeBurra introduced Carla Aponte Rogue, Miss Connecticut USA 2023. Introduction of Past Presidents: Kathy DeBurra recognized these Past Presidents in attendance – Jeanne Waseleski (2006-2008); JoAnn Calnen ( 2010-2012); Nancy Kalyan (2012-2014); Helen Barakauskas (2016-2018), and Debbie Fiore (2020-2022).

 She then introduced the members of the Executive Committee. Ashley Waseleski; **Corresponding Secretary** statedthat she received two pieces of correspondence- one from Sheila Shea; International Past President thanking CT for the excellent job done at New England Region Conference this year. The other was from the Connecticut Nurses Honor Guard as they attended the NERC opening ceremonies and presented the colors. They thanked us for that opportunity and as was reported they were well received by all in attendance at NERC. Kathy Matusiak; **Recording Secretary** thanked Anne Edwards for taking minutes in her absence at the last meeting in July at the Roseland Cottage. She said that the minutes had been edited, approved and posted on the GFWC/CT website. Kathy M. asked for three people to read today’s minutes, and the following volunteered: Donna Farrell, Pam Lerner, and Nicole Karalli. Anne Edwards; **Member at-Large** encouraged everyone to submit suggestions in the suggestion box provided. Pam Lerner; **Asst. Treasurer** said that there are still a few clubs who owe dues. For rosters- she asked clubs to use Excel format. Stephanie Capasso; **Treasurer** thanked those who sent cards to her in her husband’s illness. She reviewed our current finances and the good status we are currently in. A budget is completed and taxes are being completed and filled. She mentioned that our club is now getting a better interest rate of 2.5 % at Webster Bank. Nicole Karalli; **3rd Vice President** **and Dean of Districts** introduced the District Presidents and Assistant Presidents in attendance. They were: Nancy Coraggio, SW District President; Janet Jabieski, SW District Assistant President; Donna Recknagel, North Central District President; Jeanne Kehoe, North Central District Assistant President; Maddy Marzullo, Northwest District President; Jenny Czyrko, Northwest District Assistant President; and Shirley Cavanagh, Southeast District President. Carolyn DellaPietra, Southeast District Assistant President, (who was not in attendance.) Nicole commented that these ladies have been hard at work organizing and planning District Days. Nicole distributed small business cards with the following 2024 schedule that were distributed:

* Southeast District – April 6th at Clinton Country Club (tentative).
* Southwest District – April 9th at Anthony’s Lake Club, Danbury.
* North Central District – April 13th at Elizabeth’s (tentative).
* Northwest District – April 20th at Fairview Farms Golf Club, Harwinton.

The dates are also on the website.

Wendy Clery; **2nd Vice President** **and Dean of Community Service Programs** recognized these chairmen in attendance at today’s meeting: Communications – Georgeann Kishner; Health and Wellness – Sara Newell; Fundraising – Sara Newell and Rainey Pavarini; Veterans – Maddy Marzullo; Advocates for Children – Donna Recknagel; State Project – Liz Early; Legislative Action – Debbie Fiore; Membership – Nicole Karalli; & Leadership – Kathy Barnes. She reviewed reporting guidelines. Kathy Barnes; **President Elect** recognized Club presidents who were in attendance: Kathy Aiello and Madelaine Gross, Bethel Woman’s Club GFWC; Kathy Krieger, Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield; Maddy Marzullo, GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Club; Lynne Sarro**,** The Women’s Club of Madison; Janet Kropp, Mystic Woman’s Club; Pearl Bouchard,Woman’s Club of Newington/Wethersfield; Mary Ellen Collett, Northford-North Branford Woman’s Club GFWC, Pat Coyle, Suburban Women’s Club of New Britain; Jeanne Waseleski, Terryville Woman’s Club Inc., and Millie Anderson, Newtown Woman’s Club GFWC, Inc. Kathy shared these highlights concerning the Community Impact Project guidelines:

We are fewer than 65 days from the end of the 2022-24 GFWC Community Impact Program. The CIP Awards are GFWC’s longest standing project. Each state’s top CIP will receive an award of $100. The category winning entry will be awarded $2500 which will be used to further the chosen program. Kathy said that the report forms for the CIP are on the member portal and will be linked on the GFWC CT website. This is the only report that should have photos, press releases, and community publicity samples included. All reports which are for the period 1/1/22- 12/31/23 are due to GFWC/CT President Elect by March 1, 2024. Awards will be presented at the GFWC International Convention. She announced there will be a CT LEADS Seminar on Saturday, January 27 at a site to be determined and announced.

**Speaker Program:** Kathy DeBurra introduced today’s speaker program to honor our CSP of the Environment, “Bee Keeping” with Kay Lamy; member of the Thomaston Woman’s Club and Innkeeper of the Plume House in Thomaston. Kay gave a glimpse into Beekeeping and harvesting honey. Each Member received a 2 oz sample of honey freshly harvested from her hives.

**President’s Report**: Kathy DeBurra said that she has been very busy since July. She has visited 23 out of 27 clubs and will soon be visiting another. She announced that Suellen Brazil; International President Elect will be joining us in May of 2024 in Chester, CT at the Guest House Retreat and Conference Center and that on Saturday, December 2, our meeting will be at the Lincoln Culinary Institute in Shelton, CT. The Call will be distributed after this meeting.

**Advocates for Children**: Donna Recknagel; Chairman led everyone in a Sock Rose Bouquet project that was suggested at New England Region Conference. The bouquets will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven across from Yale hospital.

**Recess and Friendship Time and Lunch**: Holly Martin; member of GFWC Harwinton Woman’s Clubgave a beautiful Expression of Thanks.

**Meeting Reconvenes and Introduction of Special Guest**: Kathy DeBurra introduced today’s special guest- Karla Aponte Rogue, Miss Connecticut USA 2023 who summarized her journey from Puerto Rico as a young child to her current position as a Registered Nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital. She stated that health care is her passion and pageantry was something encouraged of her and it has been a great experience and opened many doors to meeting others such as today the-GFWC/CT Members.

**Leadership Presentation**: JoAnn Calnen; New England Region Leadership Committee Chairman led a Leadership Presentation that involved several members who participated in a skit. The skit suggested ideas on parliamentary procedure and the skit is available in the Leadership Toolkit on the Portal of gfwc.org. It was enjoyed by everyone! JoAnn reminded everyone that although there are parliamentary procedures for order and routine - it is not anything that should deter you from considering leadership and the advantages of pursuing that journey. She complimented so many of the Leaders in the room today. She also thanked Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman and Kathy DeBurra; State President for their work on the New England Region Conference. She has done all of those jobs/positions and knows what a task it was and she saw great success in the event.

**Memorial Scholarship**: Kathy DeBurra thanked everyone who helped retype the scholarship application. Education & Libraries Chairman; Andrea Freibauer for re-typing the document. Georgeann Kishner; Website Manager for the input of the fields to the printed document and submitting it to the website. In Chairman Beverly Regan’s absence, Ginny Chulkovs; Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield reported for her and said that the application is now in PDF form and has been updated to make it easier for those applying. The application is on the gfwcct.org website.

**Reporting Presentation**: Wendy Clery; 2nd Vice President GFWC/CT announced dates of reporting workshops that she will be holding which, she said, are also in the Presidents’ packets. They are: Southeast at Scranton Library on November 4 at 10 a.m.; North Central at Raymond Library on November 11 at 10 a.m.; Northwest at Harwinton Town Hall on November 11; and Southwest (location TBD) on November 17 at 1 p.m. There will also be an online workshop on November 19 at 2 p.m. for anyone who cannot attend the in-person sessions or who would prefer to attend online. RSVPs to Wendy are requested. Wendy said that in preparing reports the questions to address are “*Who, What, Where, When, Why*, and *How*?” Try to write a captivating report that catches the reader’s eye. Two handouts were distributed and winning report samples were available from last year’s reporting that won International recognition for CT.

**Nominating Committee**: Helen Barakauskas; Nominating Committee Chairman encouraged nominations for 2024-2026 offices and reminded the Membership of the November 1, 2023 deadline.

**Fundraising**: Sara Newell and Rainey Pavarini; Fundraising Chairmen, asked Miss Connecticut-Kayla to announce winners in Fundraising efforts.

**Other Business/Announcements**: Maddy Marzullo announced that $200 was collected today for Wreaths Across America and that will be sent to the program for this year’s benefit!

**Adjournment**: Kathy DeBurra adjourned the meeting at 2:38.

Respectfully Submitted by Kathy Matusiak, GFWC/CT Recording Secretary 2022-24.