



## 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 2-for a Scrapbook/Photo Album Edition - January-December 2023-Communications and Public Relations Committee Members. (CPR) Patricia Thal; Editor: [patriciathal@aim.com](mailto:patriciathal@aim.com) GFWC/CT website [www.gfwcct.org](http://www.gfwcct.org) Georgeann Kishner; Website Manager: [gkishner@comcast.net](mailto:gkishner@comcast.net) FB, Instagram & Social Media-Wendy Clery; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- <https://www.facebook.com/gfwcct> & <https://www.instagram.com/gfwcct/>

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 this Administration and it will be less than 6 months before I relinquish the gavel to our incoming President Elect; Kathy Barnes. As is often said-“where did the time go?” I cannot believe it is the second year already! I have received so much support from you in this administration in many roles, taking on leadership positions, doing such worthy projects in your communities and the kindness is beyond description! I am appreciative of every Member of our GFWC/CT Clubs and appreciate all the service you contribute to your communities! Your work on Membership, truly our most important goal has been most appreciated. Our Membership numbers have risen and that is in credit to you! Keep sharing our organization in any way that you can-FB -newsletters-articles in local papers and of course my favorite is one to one conversation. 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 have visited almost all of our Clubs! Almost every Club had a dedicated project 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 rest of this Administration and beyond! 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! Please call or email if you have a questions, input or ideas and all are most welcome! Email: [threesams@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

Pat Thal; Past President; The Women's Club of Madison; Newsletter Editor is also our State Newsletter Chairman. 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 constantly is updating those. She can organize 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 in the ones that she already did.

Reporting times are upon us and sometimes we hear –“ugh”. But we say-It's brag time! Documents have been sent to Presidents in email-workshops have occurred and reporting documents 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 2024 to all of you!

Yours in Federation, Kathy DeBurra; GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024



**New Leadership Opportunities that have been announced by President Elect; Kathy Barnes:**

[GFWC.kathybarnes@gmail.com](mailto:GFWC.kathybarnes@gmail.com)

There will be a CT LEADS Seminar on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at the Manchester Congregational Church. Following the holidays, she will send an email of invitation to attend that meeting. Watch for that email from Ashley Waseleski; GFWC/CT Corresponding Secretary. Thank you Ashley!

**Highlights concerning the Community Impact Project guidelines:**

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. The report forms for the CIP project are on the member portal and if you have any problems with access -email Kathy Barnes at her email above and she can guide you. 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-Kathy Barnes by March 1, 2024. Awards will be presented at the GFWC International Convention.

**LEADS:**

At the GFWC International Convention in Chicago this year. The Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) is presented each year. This day-long seminar focuses on tools we can use as leaders, tips on protocol, parliamentary procedure, public speaking and above all – meeting Clubwomen from across the county who have chosen to enhance their personal growth through leadership in GFWC.

Each state may choose one LEADS candidate to sponsor at the convention. The application form is on the GFWC/CT website. <http://www.gfwcct.org/>

(Members Only Section)

All applications and supporting materials should be received by February 1, 2024. They may be emailed to GFWC/CT President Kathy DeBurra: [threesams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:threesams@sbcglobal.net)



Have any questions about LEADS? Reach out to our last year's candidate Nicole Karalli who has taken a role of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President-Dean of Districts in our State! [nicole.karalli@att.net](mailto:nicole.karalli@att.net)



**Wendy Clery; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President 2023-2024**

Email [Wendy.clery@gmail.com](mailto:Wendy.clery@gmail.com) Phone 203.417.4130

**Documents are on the GFWC CT website: [gfwcct.org](http://gfwcct.org)**

Hello All! Thank you for your attention and focus on reporting with me this fall as we had our workshops and help sessions. I have emailed all the necessary forms and examples of reports to club presidents, and reporting chairmen as needed, but if you're missing anything please reach out and I can get them to you again. Of course, reporting forms are available on our website as well. Here are just a few basic reminders for you.

First, make sure you include the hours, funds, and in-kind donations for all the projects in each category even though your narrative is only about one project in each category.

Remember that any club activities count toward hours, it's just a question of which category they belong in and they can only be counted once. For example, if you're doing a health event at a school, you cannot count the hours for both categories. You have to choose one that they will be assigned to.

Don't forget to BRAG! Your club deserves recognition for their hard work. It's not why we do it, but it can be an important part of building your club's brand and getting future support.

And finally, please aim to get all final reports to me by January 10, 2024. This gives a small amount of time for review in case there are any questions or missing information so that things can be sent on to our state chairmen.

I cannot wait to read about all that you have been doing in 2023. I know that you work so very hard and I just love your creativity and your big beautiful hearts. I will have a few more office hours after the new year, but if you need some one-on-one time or have other questions, remember I'm only an email away.

May you all enjoy the happiest of holidays and many blessings throughout the new year. Thank you, Wendy Clery

REPORT

The GFWC Club Manual holds so much information to help all of us bring our clubs to achieve their goals. The Club Manual is exclusively available to members through the GFWC Member Portal. After logging in, click on “My Digital Library” under the profile icon in the upper right corner. Select the document(s) you would like to download in the GFWC Resources “Club Manual” folder, filed under “C.” Within that Club Manual folder, there is sub-folder containing the entire Manual, as well as sub-folders with each individual section of the Manual as a separate document. There are additional files within the Club Manual root folder.

**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.





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 2023!

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-Sara Newell

Civic Engagement & Outreach-Carin Mancini

Veterans-Maddy Marzullo

Legislative Affairs & Resolutions-Deborah Fiore

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

Advancement Area Chairmen: Communications & Public Relations:

Wendy Clery, Georgeann Kishner and Patricia Thal.

Fundraising- Rainey Pavarini & Sara Newell

Leadership-Kathy Barnes

Membership-Nicole Karalli

WHRC-Jo Ann Bruno

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.



### **Pam Lerner; Assistant Treasurer 2022-2024**



Many thanks to the State of Connecticut Clubs-All dues have been sent in and paid to Pam and the International dues will be processed shortly! It makes the position of Assistant Treasurer much easier. Please send your updated roster to [pamlern41044@aol.com](mailto:pamlern41044@aol.com) in an excel format. Have questions -please email her.

#### **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.

Honorary or life membership in a Club does not include gratis membership in the State and/or the General Federation.

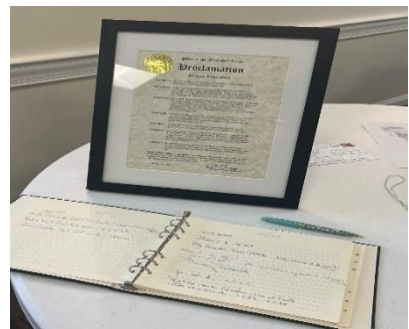
### **Stephanie Capasso; Treasurer 2022-2024**

Please use [gfwc.ct.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Let's review some highlights of 2023 and what some Clubs have done in the last year in Connecticut communities:**



**GFWC/CT Hamden WC-President Zunny Martinez with the Red Cross and the Hamden Fire Department at the February 1, 2023 Meeting sharing emergency procedures and welcoming new Members! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT Somer's WC-President Mary Sersanti at the March Club Meeting Meeting with a Nutrition Speaker to honor the State Project of Women's Health & Wellness and a display of the Procamation given to their Club celebrating 100 years of service! Congratulations!**





## **District Days 2023!**

### **Southeast District! District Presidents:**

**Shirley Cavanaugh; District President, Carolyn DellaPietra; Asst. District President.**



### **Speaker: Connecticut State Representative: Rosa DeLauro**

Rosa is interested in health policy issues, particularly women's health. She has introduced bills aimed at improving cancer treatment and research and women's health policies.

### **Northwest District! District Presidents:**

**Maddy Marzullo; District President; Jenny Czyrko; Asst. District President.**



### **Southwest District! District Presidents:**

**Nancy Coraggio; District President, Janet Jabieski; Asst. District President.**



## **Northcentral District! District Presidents:**

**Donna Recknagel; District President; Jean Kehoe; Asst. District President.**



**GFWC/CT Terryville WC-President Jeanne Waseleski and Jennie June winner for the State of CT at their April Club Meeting Meeting with a fun and profitable pocketbook auction! Congratulations!**



**Jean Brown's Service-Past State President 2002-2004 –  
forever in our hearts!**





**GFWC/CT Woodbury WC-President Kris Matwejc at their April Club Meeting Meeting with a fabulous program on scamming and protecting yourself. Beautiful meeting location at the Woodbury Firehouse! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT Newington/Wetherfield WC-President Pearl Bouchard at their April Club Meeting Meeting with a fabulous program honoring years of service and their Members! Congratulations!**



**Honor to our forever friend Sheila Macauley! Member of the Danbury/New Fairfield Club. The largest Club in CT!**



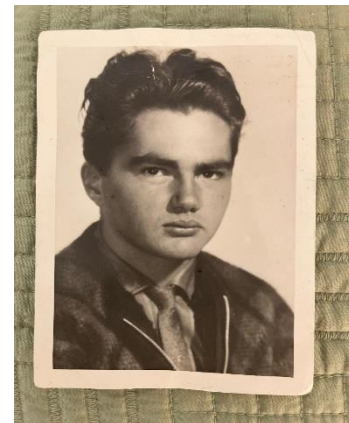
**GFWC/CT the WC of Madison Club-President Lynne Sarro- Whist  
Fundraising Event for the Madison Club ! Congratulations!**



**Honor Flight! May 6, 2023 Thank you Maddy Marzullo; GFWC/CT Veterans  
Chairman for your endless support of Veterans!**



**GFWC/CT Thomaston WC-President Roberta Minuto at their Club Meeting  
w/a tea to honor the service of Veteran Peter Palumbo; brother of State  
President K. DeBurra with their Members!**





**GFWC/CT Suburban WC of Greater New Britain; President Patricia Coyle at their Club Meeting hosting a baby shower to assist their communities youngest members! Congratulations!**



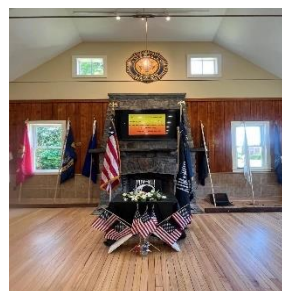
**May Convention took us the day prior to the Ukrainian Museum in Stamford, CT with a visit from International Vice President-Wendy Carriker. Convention held in Shelton, CT!**



**May Convention.**



**Dedication of the American Legion Building in Madison, CT!**





## Prudence Crandall-Celebrating HOPE breakfast!



## International Convention in Kentucky! June 8-12, 2023!



## GFWC/CT Woodbury WC; President Kris Matwejc at their Club's Celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Congratulations! June 15, 2023.



## Membership Workshop -Members are the HEART of our organization!



**GFWC/CT North Haven WC; President Pamela Lerner at their Club Meeting hosting a birthday party to assist their communities youngest members! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT the WC of Madison Club-President Lynne Sarro- the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade representation of the GFWC/CT Club and the State President who hails from that Club! Congratulations!**



**July Board Meeting of the GFWC/CT State Members at the Roseland Cottage with a tea in the Carriage House and tour of the residence with rich history of US Presidential visits including one more from GFWC/CT State President K. DeBurra!**



**District day Planning Meeting for the Southeast District !**





**GFWC/CT the WC of Enfield Club President; Sandra Barry and the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration/Anniversary of their Club! Congratulations!**



**Honor Flight -September 2, 2023**



**Board of Directors Meeting in Colorado!  
Photo of all New England State Presidents -Molly Brown House in Denver-  
Approval of the new GFWC Emblem and announcement of the  
International Convention in Chicago -2024!**



**GFWC/CT the WC of Windsor Locks; President; Kathy Williams receives their Membership gavel-September 19, 2023! Congratulations!**



**Some photos of New England Region Conference in Cromwell CT - September 21-24, 2023! "The Greatest Show In CT!" Thank you to Convention Chairman; Donna Farrell and every single Member of GFWC/CT and the other New England States that made this event fabulous! International President; Debra Strahanoski was the honored guest!**



**So many Clubs helped on every task -here's Madison Members making the welcome bags the Tuesday before the Conference!  
Thank you to everyone!**



## National Day of Service! Saturday, September 30, 2023!



**October honors the GFWC Signature Program of Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention: Thank you to the WC of Madison for always keeping this in the forefront and Liz Early; Club Vice-President leading the October meeting with programs. October also honors Membership in the Madison Club- New Members joined the Club! Welcome!**



**GFWC/CT The WC of Greater New Milford Club President; Michele Brescia at their Club meeting! Congratulations!**

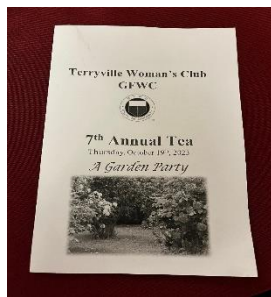


**CT Foodshare Donation of GFWC/CT in honor of Leslie Apostalon; Past President 2018-2020.**





**Terryville Tea Fundraising! GFWC/CT the WC of Terryville Club President; Jeanne Waseleski and her daughter Ashley Waseleski-Corresponding Secretary; GFWC/CT -generational GFWC/CT Members!! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT Hamden WC-President Zunny Martinez at their October 22, 2023 fundraising event! Such fun at a Murder Mystery event! The Members produced a fun and wonderful day! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT The Women's Club of Windsor Club President; Bonnie Waterhouse and the 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration/Anniversary of their Club! Congratulations!**



**GFWC/CT Fall Conference; Saturday, October 28, 2023 in beautiful  
Harwinton, CT in the Fall in New England !**



**GFWC/CT Advocates for Children State Chairman; Donna Recknegal  
delivers donated items to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven CT!  
Flower bouquets made at GFWC/CT Fall Conference in October! The  
Women's Club of Madison also donated a tub of crafting supplies! Thank  
you each and everyone who participated in this joy for the children!**



**GFWC/CT The WC of Newtown Club President; Millie Anderson at their  
November Club Meeting to honor their service projects and Veterans!  
Congratulations!**





**The wreath circle is a symbol of immortality and throughout history -wreaths have been associated with life, rejuvenation, and renewal. Wishing each and every Member of GFWC/CT in every Club happiness and joy in this holiday season with much thanks for all you do keeping life, rejuvenation, and renewal for our communities so strong! I am very proud to be your Leader!**

**Thank you! Kathy**



**Please share information about our scholarships within your communities! The application is on the website [gfwcct.org](http://gfwcct.org) (Members Only area. ) New application procedure.**

GFWC/CT Memorial Scholarships are available to Connecticut women pursuing advanced courses of study at institutions of higher learning. The Memorial Scholarships include the Dorothy E. Schoelzel Scholarship and the Phipps Scholarships. All awards are granted on the basis of future promise, scholastic ability and financial need.

All applicants must be sponsored by a GFWC/CT Club and each club may sponsor only one applicant per year. Scholarships are not granted for current or past year's expenses. At this time, the maximum award is \$2,000 for the Schoelzel Scholarship and up to \$4000 per Phipps' Scholarship.

At the time of filling the application, candidates to be considered for the Schoelzel Scholarship must have completed THREE or more years of undergraduate work in accredited institutions of higher learning with a 3.0 average or better. They must be matriculating for a Bachelor's or post graduate degree, OR at the time of filing this application, candidates to be considered for the Phipps Scholarships must have completed TWO or more years of undergraduate work in an accredited institution of higher learning with a 3.0 average or better, and be matriculating for a Bachelor's or post graduate degree.

Questions must be answered fully using additional paper if necessary. You may include a photograph or any further information you wish. Enclose a stamped, self-address envelope if you wish the items returned.

Completed applications, including general and personal information, financial statement, instructor/employer references, official transcript of at least the most recent two years of undergraduate or graduate work must be received by the GFWC/CT sponsoring club's Scholarship Chair by:

**March 10, 2024**

Good Luck to all who venture to apply!

Thank you to all who donated to WAA at Fall Conference -a \$200 check was sent to them!   **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Received December 20, 2023; Veterans Chairman; Maddy Marzullo

Dear Maddy Marzullo,

On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters across the country, I want to personally thank YOU for your support of the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

During this year's National Wreaths Across America observance, more than three million dedicated volunteers – a third of whom are children – placed THREE million veterans' wreaths at 4,225 participating locations across the country. That is more than 500 new locations added to the program since last year! Specifically, at Arlington National Cemetery where this all began, 260,000 veterans' wreaths were placed by more than 30,000 volunteers on a truly gorgeous day.

As I think of those numbers, each of those headstones representing a LIFE of service, and each of those volunteers saying each servicemember's name out loud and sharing a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, I am immensely humbled. I am also truly overwhelmed with pride for the people of this great nation where so many individuals and communities can come together in unity and support for those who have protected our freedom. And most important to me, so many children were taken by the hand and introduced to these men and women and taught about the cost of freedom.

I will say it again: **THANK YOU**. Thank you for your volunteerism, your sponsorships, and your help in sharing the mission all year long!

Thank you most of all for taking the time during this busy season to join us in letting veterans and military families know that their service and sacrifice are both seen and appreciated and that they are not alone in their loss.

Remember. Honor. Teach.   With gratitude, Karen Worcester



## **THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD**

President -Debra Strahanoski -President's Theme: "A Million Dreams!"

President Elect-Suellen Brazil

Vice President-Wendy Carriker

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President-Jolie Frankfurth

Secretary-Mary Beth Williams

Treasurer-Becky Wright

Director of Junior Clubs-Katie Jones Moydell

### **Happy and Healthy New Year 2024!**

**This newsletter is dedicated to GFWC/CT Members  
and their amazing Club work in 2023!**

GFWC/CT COLOR- **Dark Red**

GFWC/CT WEBSITE- [www.gfwcct.org](http://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 1/10/24**

**LEADS Applications due 2/1/24**

**Scholarship Applications due 3/10/24**

**District day dates for 2024:**

**SE-Southeast -April 6, 2024**

**SW-Southwest-April 9, 2024**

**NC-Northcentral-April 13, 2024**

**NW-Northwest-April 20, 2024**

**GFWC/CT FLOWER-Mountain Laurel**

