



APRIL 2025 NEWS

GFWC Volunteers in Action Week: April 20-26 is designated GFWC Volunteers Week. What is your club doing during that week? Northwest District will be in action holding their District Day, Manchester Women's Club will be in action Rebuilding Together! With many organizations in town, the Women's Club of Madison has Green Up Clean Up on their calendar that week.

Federation Day: On April 24, 1890, the GFWC Constitution was ratified, and 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs. At over 60,000 members, we have come a long way since that day 130 years ago. "It occurred to them that union is strength. Then they began to reach out toward each other." This is a quote from Julia Ward Howe in 1889. Take Federation Day, April 24, 2025, to reflect where we have been as an organization and look forward to what we can accomplish in the future. Federation Day is April 24, 2025. Celebrate the impact of GFWC: 2600 clubs worldwide. 98,386 Projects; 6 million Volunteer Hours; \$15 million Donations, \$91 million of In-kind donations.

Living the Volunteer Spirit GFWC CT Clubs have been busy Living the Volunteer Spirit this winter. If your club has an example of Living the Volunteer Spirit to share – send it to GFWC. Simply send your full club's name, State Federation and 100 words describing your favorite project to PR@GFWC.org. Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings the project to life.

While you are at it – share it with our GFWC Facebook page and bookmark those photos for the 2026 Living the Volunteer Spirit photo contest!



Jennie Award: The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at State, Regional, and National levels for the Federation's highest honor. You can find the nomination form in the GFWC Club Manual here:

<https://www.gfwcct.org/club-activities-fundraisers/> The deadline for submission to Jeanne Waseleski is June 1, 2025. You can reach Jeanne at auction46@comcast.net

GFWC Advancement Plans: Legislative Action/Public Policy, Membership, Leadership, Communications and Public Relations and Fundraising – all tools we can use to share our clubs with the community, gain members, provide more service. Come to the May Convention for an interactive workshop on the Advancement Plans working in tandem.

Nominating Committees: Do you know someone who would be a great leader but needs some encouragement? Members of the Nominating Committees can shape GFWC CT's future by encouraging members to take a leadership position either in your District or within the State organization. These committees will be formed at District Days and May Convention. Please contact your District President if you are interested in serving locally and Wendy Clery, Leadership Chairman if you are interested in serving on the GFWC CT Nominating Committee. "Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on."

– Serena Williams

GFWC Brands: Please review your Facebook pages and groups, websites and newsletters to ensure you are using the correct GFWC Branding. You can review the GFWC Style Guide on the State website here: <https://www.gfwcct.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2024-GFWC-Style-Guide-FINAL-01.2024-PDF-2.pdf>

This is the **Badge**:



This is the GFWC CT Logo:



Suggestion Box: Mischa Campbell is the GFWC CT Member at Large. One of her roles is being the ambassador for members. If you have a suggestion that you think would make our events and our club better or stronger – let her know. You can reach her at: mastcam3775@gmail.com.

Access and Inclusion for All

GFWC News & Notes 1/23/25

From our motto, "Unity in Diversity," and the recognition that in our communities, people have a diversity of abilities, the 2024-2026 GFWC Connecticut administration is focusing on increasing access and inclusion for people of different abilities.

We can support Special Olympics, raise a puppy for Canine Companions, donate books and games to Syd's Shack to support non-verbal children, publicize the Airport Sunflower Project that supports people with hidden disabilities, and support Ability Beyond and MARC, Inc. to increase independence for those with developmental disabilities. Clubs will look at our meeting places and event locations to make access and inclusion a priority.



Our Projects So Far:

- In July, the Manchester Club changed their monthly dinner group to an event hosted by MARC, Inc. to support their work with independence for their clients.
- In September, we worked through Canine Companions' action portal to have one municipality recognize National Service Dog Month.
- In October, our speaker for Advocates for Children Week introduced members to the Connecticut Family Support Network, working with families of children with disabilities. The Connecticut Governor's office issued a proclamation in celebration of Advocates for Children Week.
- In December we were joined by one of our Special Olympics athletes and her coach for our social time.

Independence, inclusion, and access for all people should be an expectation, not a goal.

GFWC CT CALENDAR - updated

2025	
April 12	North Central District Meeting
April 20-26	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	GFWC Federation Day
May 2- 3	Connecticut State Capitol Tour, Connecticut Honor Flight (BDL) GFWC CT May Convention Rocky Hill Elks. Link to the Call: https://www.gfwcct.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CALL-FOR-MAY-CONVENTION-2025.pdf
May TBD	2025 Sheila Macauley Memorial Walking Contest
June 1	Deadline for Jennie Award Nominations
June 6-9	GFWC 2025 Annual Convention Omni Atlanta Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia
July 12	GFWC CT Executive Board Meeting Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Center
September 20	GFWC CT Fall Conference Fairview Farm, Harwinton
September 27	GFWC National Day of Service
October 19-25	Advocates for Children's Week
Oct. 30-Nov. 2	GFWC New England Region, New Hampshire
November 1	GFWC CT 2026-2028 Executive Committee Nominations due
December 10	GFWC Holiday Open House
2026	
January 15	Club Reports due to Second Vice President
January 25-31	Memorial Scholarship Week
February 1	LEADS applications due
February 7	GFWC CT Board Meeting - GFWC Galentine's Day Celebration
February 15	Chairmen's reports due to Second Vice President
April 1	Memorial Scholarship Applications Due to Sponsor Club
March-April	GFWC CT District Meetings TBD
April 19-25	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	GFWC Federation Day
May 15-16	GFWC CT May Convention
June 26-29	GFWC 2026 Annual Convention Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona

Did you know a group of owls is a Parliament? Owls are guardians of the vineyards and a symbol of wisdom and strength.



I have had a wonderful experience as your State President this past year. You have given me the opportunity to meet members, participate in events and help clubs look to the future. Please continue to let me know about your special events and your regular monthly meetings. I learn so much every time you invite me. Community service in a community of women is not work it is inspirational. I look forward to seeing you at District Days, May Convention and in your town. Please let me know when I may join you and meet more members.

Yours in Federation,

Kathy Barnes

Kathy Barnes
2024-2026 President
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut