



## OCTOBER 2025 NEWS

**FOOD INSECURITY – CRITICAL UPDATE:** Tomorrow, November 1, SNAP benefits for over 300,000 CT residents will not be paid. The majority of these recipients are children. As a site coordinator for a Foodshare mobile delivery, GFWC CT President Kathy Barnes has attended CT Foodshare webinars this week detailing changes to the organization's processes to combat this lack of funding. Many of our clubs participate with Foodshare or local food pantries and your contributions are critical. One thing that those of us who participate in deliveries can do is share information. Research options for help within your community and make a hand out. Many participants do not realize where and when food banks are open, meals are available and other deliveries take place. Use your personal and club social media to share this information.

**International Day of Service:** At its Fall Conference, GFWC CT voted to donate \$1000 to the Success for Survivors Scholarships. At the conference, information about the 18 organizations in CCDAV was handed out. Clubs attending were asked to share what they were doing for the International Day of Service. This is how we found out that two clubs were not registered but planning events. At least one managed to get registered. A scholarship application and introductory letter was mailed to each of the 18 organizations on behalf of the state. Club presidents were encouraged to reach out to their local organization and provide assistance in getting applications to candidates. The State President has had follow up communications and is in the process of emailing the updated application to all organizations. Please share your report receipts with GFWC CT. Congratulations to GFWC Newington Wethersfield for obtaining a citation for IDS 2025.

**Veterans:** On Tuesday November 11, clubs around the state will join their communities and honor all veterans. Share your photos on Facebook, and share your appreciation with the veterans. At our GFWC Fall Conference, members voted to donate \$300 to Wreaths Across America. The wreaths will be placed at the Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, CT. Join GFWC CT in the mission of WAA: Remember, Honor, Teach – that the service of our veterans is shared for future generations.

**Strategic Plan:** Having tools to guide our focus is critical for our clubs. In September, GFWC CT adopted our first Strategic Plan. You can access it on our state website [www.GFWCct.org](http://www.GFWCct.org) in the Members Only section.

**GFWC Membership:** Please continue reporting new members to Pam Lerner, GFWC CT Assistant Treasurer. We want to recognize our new members who have joined because of the wonderful work each club does in their community.

**Welcome:** We welcome Michelle Eifes as Corresponding Secretary for the balance of this administration. Michele is the 2024 GFWC CT Leads graduate and a member of Harwinton Woman’s Club. Thank you Michelle!



**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> All versions of individual club logos are on the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Connecticut Facebook group (The Nest) or reach out to Wendy Clery, GFWC CT President Elect for an updated logo for your club.

This is the GFWC CT **Logo** (see GFWC Member Portal for more information).



**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](mailto:mastcam3775@gmail.com).

**Fall Conference:** We were joined by GFWC New England Region President Tina Smith who spoke about St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the GFWC NER drive to raise funds for St. Jude as well as an upcoming trip to Memphis in support of the drive. Michael Criss, First Selectman of Harwinton, presented a Citation recognizing the service done by GFWC in CT. A very special visitor was Walter who accompanied GFWC CT Environment Chair Ashley Waseleski!



**GFWC CT Signature Project:** Joanne Sullivan and Geri Harvey from Windsor Woman’s Club of GFWC and CT, Peggy Malaney, Lynne Lynch and Dorothy Malerba from GFWC Manchester CT Women’s Club were all at Breakfast with Champions, celebrating the work of Interval House. Thank you MWC for letting me know about the event.



**GFWC CT CALENDAR - updated**

<b>2025</b>	
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
<b>2026</b>	
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 Madison, CT
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: North Central 3/28, Southeast 4/11, Southwest 4/15, Northwest 4/25
April 19-25	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
April 24	GFWC Federation Day
May 15-16	GFWC CT May Convention Homewood Suites - Glastonbury
June 26-29	GFWC 2026 Annual Convention Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona

General Federation of Women's Clubs  
invites you to the



*Holiday Open House*  
**MIRACLE ON N STREET**  
December 10, 2025  
10:30 AM-12:30 PM OR 1:30-3:30 PM

GFWC Headquarters  
1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036  
RSVP at [memberportal.gfwc.org/events](https://memberportal.gfwc.org/events)

## **Access and Inclusion for All GFWC CT 2024-2026 Administration**

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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Barnes".

Kathy Barnes

2024-2026 President

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut