



Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs www.gfwc.org

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWS

GIVING TUESDAY: Tuesday, December 2 is Giving Tuesday 2025. Here are two ways to engage on Giving Tuesday on behalf of GFWC.

As clubs and members we can support GFWC's affiliate **Shot@Life** through **GFWC's Measles Mission**. Because of the generosity and determination of clubs across the country, GFWC's Measles Mission, in collaboration with Shot@Life, has reached a powerful milestone—we're already halfway to our fundraising goal!

That means more than 8,000 children will now be protected from measles, one of the world's most contagious—and preventable—diseases. Each vaccine represents a child's chance to grow, dream, and live without fear. To learn more about your fellow clubwomen's inspiring efforts and the timeliness of your commitment, check out [this recent blog post](#).

Every contribution—every share, every dollar—moves us closer to a world where no child suffers from a preventable disease. Your efforts are making a real impact in a time when it's needed most. Let's keep up that momentum: [donate or start fundraising today](#).

GFWC Annual Giving: GFWC Designated Funds support the work of GFWC by providing essential funding in targeted areas. They are vital to continue GFWC's mission of strengthening our communities and enhancing the lives of others. Members may contribute to designated funds supporting preservation and restoration of the GFWC Headquarters, WHRC Fund: supporting development in the Women's History and Resource Center, GFWC Endowment Fund – funds doated are restricted but interest earned is unrestricted, GFWC Jane Cunningham Croly Gravesite Fund, GFWC Library Replenishment Fund – helping community libraries recover from disasters.

If your employer has a program for matching your contributions please consider a GFWC Annual Giving donation. If it is time for your "Required Mandatory Deduction" (RMD) from your retirement accounts consider GFWC Annual Giving – it may be a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD). If you would like to make a lasting impact supporting GFWC – please consider GFWC Annual Giving program. <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/supportus> has more information about donations to GFWC.



Clubwoman Magazine: The Fall issue of Clubwoman can be downloaded here:
<https://www.gfwc.org/clubwoman-magazine/> Please share this with all members.

Strategic Plan: You can access the GFWC CT Strategic Plan on our state website www.GFWCct.org in the Members Only section. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Strategic Planning Committee – please contact GFWC CT President Kathy Barnes at gfwc.kathybarnes@gmail.com.

New England Region Conference: GFWC CT was represented by 13 members at the 2025 New England Region Conference. GFWC NER President Tina Smith thanked GFWC President Wendy Carriker for joining us. Also included in the event were introductions of the six Jennie Award candidates from New England. During the Conference, we had presentations from NER Leaders.

Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention information was presented by Paula Andrews, GFWC committee member. Who spoke about SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP and fun way to raise money for this within the clubs with fake money.

Juniors' Special Program, Advocates for Children presented by Beth McKeon, Junior Special Program member. The Ripple Effect: The Powerful Impact of Advocating for Children.

Community Service Programs presented by Debra Capuano. Explained the 5 community service programs and distributed a chart with scrambled names of the affiliate organizations and encouraged table discussion.

Legislation & Public Policy presented by Katie Robey, Legislation & Public Policy committee member. Plan a Visit to Your Legislator. Discussion and suggestions.

GFWC Fundraising committee member Karen Leach presented her report on some fun-d raising activities.

GFWC Annual Giving Program committee member Mary Ann Pierce gave a presentation "Honor the Legacy – Sustain the Future."

Wendy Clery, GFWC NER Fundraising Chairman encouraged members to visit fundraising tables for silent auction and other opportunities.

GFWC Communications & Public Relations committee member Jeanne O'Sullivan gave a presentation on Artificial Intelligence, or AI with demonstrations on how it works.

GFWC Membership committee member **Debbie Fiore** gave her presentation “Who Wants to Be a GFWC Member” game similar to “Who wants to be a Millionaire” with a twist (instead of the right answer the winner was choosing the not recommended answer. All members were winners)..

GFWC Leadership committee member **Anne Engelhardt** gave her presentation “Welcome to the Leadership Kitchen” with a recipe for powerful leader.

Kathy DeBurra, GFWC CT presented a Putting Our “Best Foot” Forward with Protocol from Cynthia Geis, GFWC Protocol Chairman.

GFWC Reporting: Second VP Nicole Karalli will be holding reporting workshops right into January – please reach out to her at nicole.karalli@att.net for the link.

Community Impact Program: President Elect Wendy Clery is looking forward to reading about your club’s CIP. Contact her with questions – her contact info is on our GFWC CT website.

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).



November Highlights in US Women’s History

- **November 1, 1848** – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens, in 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world’s first co-ed medical schools
- **November 6, 2018** – Peggy Flanagan, a citizen of the White Earth Nation, became the first female Native American elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota. She was a Native American activist, community organizer, and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2015 to 2019.
- **November 8, 1910** – The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage

- **November 8, 1984** – Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, becomes the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space
- **November 11, 1979** – Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington D.C. as a center for African-American women’s history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune
- **November 11, 1993** – The Vietnam Women’s Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era
- **November 13, 1938** – Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini is beatified, the first American woman citizen to become a saint
- **November 14, 1889** – Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds, beating the fictional record set by Phineas Fogg in Jules Verne’s Around the World in Eighty Days
- **November 14, 1903** – The U.S. Women’s Trade Union League is established
- **November 14, 1946** – Emily Greene Balch, co-founder of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- **November 28, 1881** – The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- **November 30** – Native Women’s Equal Pay Day, when we recognize the wide gap in earnings between Native women and White, non-Hispanic men – 55 cents for every \$1.00

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 .

GFWC CT CALENDAR - updated

2025	
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 of Directors' Meeting - GFWC Galentine's Day Celebration Madison, CT - all members welcome!
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 4/14, 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

Clubwomen supporting clubwomen: Many clubs have fundraisers in December – please post a link on the GFWC Facebook group and share on your own page. MANY members support other club's activities.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: Between now and **January 7**, you can send a **free holiday e-card** with a personalized message. It's quick and easy—just click the links below to choose your card and share your warm wishes:

[Spread holiday cheer: Cards for hospitalized kids - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)
[Envía una tarjeta navideña a los niños de St. Jude - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#)

Access and Inclusion for All GFWC CT 2024-2026 Administration Focus

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. Many clubs have supported the State Project and after REPORTING is done - I will be talking with you for some insight into what your club has done during these two years.

In November, I was able to join GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club for a presentation by Kevin Daly, who has been involved in equal access matters on the statewide level mostly through the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities and UCONN's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. These institutions, along with Disability Rights CT, compose what is informally called the "DD Network" in our state. They are mandated by the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act, which dates back to the 1970's. Every state has the equivalent of these three institutions. They are all about advocating for equal access and equal protections for people with disabilities.

If you review the web sites below, you will find information about the latest issues in CT around equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

CT DD Council
<https://portal.ct.gov/ctcdd>

UConn UCEDD
<https://uconnucedd.org/>

Disability Rights CT

<https://www.disrightsct.org/>

The CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance is another good source of information.

<https://www.facebook.com/CTCrossDisabilityAlliance/>

Embrace the season of late sunrises and early sunsets that give us quiet time for reflection. Kind Hearts, Brave Minds, Fierce Spirits need that time for reflection, too.

Yours in Federation,

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