

Candidates for the 2026-2028 Administration

Wendy Clery; State President.

As per the bylaws: At the State Convention of the odd number year, the First Vice President is automatically the President-Elect of the State Federation.

1st VP; Joanne Sullivan:

Joanne has been a Member of GFWC/CT for 32 years. In 1993 she joined the East Hartford Women's Club. She served as Club President for (2 terms) and held a variety of other positions in that Club. When she moved to Windsor, she joined the Windsor Women's Club in 2017 and served as President from 2019-2021 as well as other positions in that Club. She continues to hold dual Membership in both Clubs. She became known as the "Pandemic President" and found creative ways to keep members actively engaged. At the state level of Leadership, she has held numerous Chairmanships and seeks to be elected as the 1st VP of GFWC/CT. When asked her favorite project; she has particular interest in literacy and library programs. She loves the level of volunteering and mentorship she has experienced that create great leaders in GFWC. Joanne seeks to be elected as 1st VP in GFWC/CT.

2nd VP; Lynne Sarro:

Lynne joined The Women's Club of Madison in 2018. She took an immediate role as Hospitality Chairman for that Administration. She was elected Vice-President in 2020 and served that administration 2020-2022 and elected Club President for the 2022-2024 Administration. She is currently the SE District President 2024-2026. She was a LEADS Graduate in 2025 and showed her strength in Leadership by stepping back into the role of Vice President in 2024 in her Club "mentoring" new Members for the position, successfully. New Members did not feel ready to step into the roles and many Members had served the positions. Successfully 2 newer Members took the role together. In the Women's Club of Madison, she has been involved in setting up holiday and end of year dinners, programs, environmental projects, annual coat drives, National Days of Service and many Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness for the Signature project of GFWC. As District President she has organized one District Day and looks forward to another in 2026. When asked a word to describe GFWC-she chose "support". Support to each other, the community, the State and National initiatives. Lynne seeks to be elected as the 2nd VP in GFWC/CT.

Treasurer; Jeanne Kehoe:

Jeanne joined the East Hartford Woman's Club (EHWC) in 2006 and was immediately put on the Audit Committee. Over the past years, she has been the Finance Chair, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Vice President & President from 2021-23 of EHWC. Currently, Jeanne is a Director on Board, Parliamentarian & Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Jeanne was North Central Assistant President from 2022-2024. In addition to the community service that GFWC does, Jeanne is grateful for the friendships made. She is the GFWC CT Treasurer since 2024. Jeanne is seeking to continue to serve the State in this capacity during the next Administration.

Asst. Treasurer; Zunny Martinez:

Zunny joined the Hamden Woman's Club in 2006, beginning a journey of service and lasting connections. In 2009, alongside 4 club members, she took part in the founding of the GFWC Women's Club of North Haven. During those formative years, she served as Treasurer and then rejoined the Hamden Woman's Club. Her leadership roles, included Recording Secretary and President from 2022-2024, and is currently the Treasurer. Her service extended to the state level, where she held the positions of Finance Chairman for two terms, District Assistant President, and District President. Each position strengthening commitment to the mission of GFWC, reinforcing her belief in the power of women working together to make meaningful differences in our communities. She actively participated in and supported numerous committees and initiatives, including organizing holiday dinners, special projects such as the chorus club, photography contest, as well as annual fundraising events and any other activities where help was needed. She finds great joy in helping others through service and GFWC has given her that opportunity. She is extremely proud to be a member of the HWC/GFWC and grateful for the opportunities it has given to lead, serve, and make a positive impact. In 2024, she was honored to receive the Spirit Award from GFWC/CT, a recognition that reflects the inspiration she draws from Membership in the organization. Zunny seeks to be elected as the Asst. Treasurer in GFWC/CT.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Freibauer:

Andrea has been a driving force behind the Killingworth Women's Organization (KWO) since joining in May 2012. Her energy, initiative, and unwavering commitment quickly made her indispensable, especially during a time when the club was navigating leadership transitions due to personal circumstances among its officers. Just one month after joining, Andrea was nominated for Vice President and, with a special exception from the Board, won the position by popular vote. In early 2013, when the sitting President stepped down unexpectedly, Andrea stepped up without hesitation. She completed the remainder of that term and went on to serve four additional years as President, guiding the organization with clarity, compassion, and vision.

Andrea's leadership didn't end with her presidency. She became the inaugural member of the Governance Committee, where she continues to oversee annual elections and update the organization's bylaws. Over her 14-year tenure, Andrea has chaired and contributed to countless initiatives, including Relay for Life, the Community Tag Sale, and most recently, New Beginnings; The Kelly Allard Leach Memorial Scholarship. She is also part of the transition team co-chairing KWO's absorption of the HK Backpack Program, which provides food assistance to children in need. Her impact spans nearly every corner of KWO's programming. Andrea has served on committees for DVSA, Wish Drive, Giving Tuesday, Trunk or Treat, Soldier Care, All Things Killingworth, Earth Day, and Santa's Mailbox. Her dedication extends beyond the local level: on behalf of GFWC/CT, she has served on the Memorial Scholarships committee for the past two years and has held the role of State Chair for Environment and Education for three consecutive terms. Andrea's legacy is one of tireless service, thoughtful leadership, and deep-rooted community care. Her work continues to shape KWO's mission and inspire those around her. Andrea seeks to be elected as the Recording Secretary in GFWC/CT.

Corresponding Secretary; Michelle Eifes

As per the bylaws: The Corresponding Secretary shall be the choice of the President-Elect. The name of the person selected by the President-Elect shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate.

This Slate is respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee 2024-2026:

Katherine DeBurra; Chairman and Members: Kathy Aiello, Debbie Fiore, JoAnn Sullivan, and Jeanne Wasileski. Alternates Madeline Gross and Lynne Sarro.

Presented at the GFWC CT Board of Directors Meeting 2/7/2026