



### **March Highlights in US Women's History**

- **March 1, 1978** – Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma County, California
- **March 1, 1987** – Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women's History Month
- **March 2, 1903** – the Martha Washington Hotel opens in New York City, becoming the first hotel exclusively for women
- **March 3, 1913** – Women's Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC, where over 8000 women gathered to demand a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote
- **March 4, 1917** – Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress
- **March 4, 1933** – Frances Perkins becomes United States Secretary of Labor, the first female member of the United States Cabinet
- **March 8** – International Women's Day, whose origins trace back to protests in the U.S. and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women
- **March 8, 2014** – National Catholic Sisters Week  
[www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org) established to raise awareness of the contributions of Catholic sisters
- **March 12, 1912** – Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting

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- **March 12, 1993** – Janet Reno is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Attorney General
- **March 13, 1986** – Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska
- **March 17, 1910** – Camp Fire Girls is established as the first interracial, non-sectarian American organization for girls
- **March 17, 1917** – Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the first woman to join the navy and the first woman to officially join the military in a role other than a nurse
- **March 20, 1852** – Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century
- **March 21, 1986** – Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship
- **March 23, 1917** – Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf
- **March 31, 1888** – The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.
- **March 31, 1776** – Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, "Remember the ladies..."



**GFWC CT LEADS Candidate Announcement:**

Each year, GFWC CT selects a nominee for the Leadership and Development Seminar (LEADS) at the GFWC Annual Convention. This year, Geri Harvey—President of the Windsor Woman’s Club of GFWC and CT for 2024-2026—will represent us in Scottsdale. Geri is also set to serve as North Central District President in the 2026-2028 administration. The insights she gains from the LEADS seminar will enhance her leadership within the North Central District.

**Congratulations Geri!**



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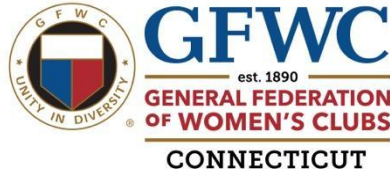


HonorFlightCT is working hard at planning the May 2, 2026 flight. They are seeking veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Apply now: <https://honorflightct.org/applications>  
(860) 255 8202



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## 2025-2026 GFWC CT Memorial Service



### Memorial Honoring our Club Sisters

March 2026

Dear Club Presidents:

At our State Convention in May, we will be honoring the passing of our club sisters that have gone before us between May 2025 through May 2026 who were not included in the 2025 memorial.

Information needed is as follows:

- Club sister's name
- Club name
- Passing date
- If known, year joined and/or how many years in you club
- A short blurb about your club sisters' **club activities** while a member

Please email me no later than May 8th so I can prepare for our Memorial.

God Bless our sisters and their families.

Warmest regards,

**Maddy** Marzullo

[maddymarz2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maddymarz2@sbcglobal.net)

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## Announcements:

From Leslie Capps: Founder, Wild Woman Marketing, and GFWC Communications and PR Honorary Chairman

Throughout the coming year, we want to share the stories of GFWC members from across the country—grassroots members, new members, long-time leaders, and women whose service quietly changes lives every day. These stories will help us honor who we are, preserve our history, and inspire both current and future members. They will also help us show the public the depth, diversity, and character of the women who make up this Federation.

If you have ever wondered whether your story is “big enough,” “interesting enough,” or “important enough,” let me reassure you: it is. Some of the most powerful narratives come from ordinary moments—your first project, the woman who invited you to join, the moment you realized your contribution mattered, or the experience that taught you something about leadership, service, or resilience.

Your story does not need to be polished. It does not need to follow a specific structure. It just needs to be true.

If you feel called to share, or if you would like to nominate a fellow member whose story deserves to be told, we invite you to reach out. We have created a dedicated email address for submissions to [MyStory@GFWC.org](mailto:MyStory@GFWC.org). A member of the Communications team will follow up with simple next steps.

As we move into the 2026-2028 Administration, let us honor what has always made GFWC extraordinary: the women who show up, serve boldly, and lead with heart. By sharing your story, you help preserve our legacy—and you help spark the next generation of GFWC who are searching for a place to belong and a purpose to live out.

Your voice matters.

## GFWC Legislative Corner

By: Debra Bryant, GFWC Federal Government Relations Consultant



*To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.*

**THANK YOU:** The Legislation/Public Policy Committee greatly appreciates your efforts which increased the Legislative Action Center registration by 23.5% between August 2024 and March 2026. Participation in the Legislative Action Center is the cornerstone of our advocacy efforts.

**It's FY 2027 Federal Appropriations Season:** If you have not yet utilized the GFWC Legislative Action Center to urge Congress to prioritize funding for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, global vaccines, and preterm birth research and intervention – NOW is the TIME to ACT!

The House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee announced March deadlines for members of Congress to submit funding priorities, including increases in program funding and specific Community Project Funding requests. The Senate Appropriations Committee deadlines are in early April.

To advocate for program funding for prevention, education, and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, GFWC launched a **Legislative Alert** in support of increased funding for programs authorized in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Family Violence Prevention Services Act, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center, Division of Violence and Suicide Prevention.

To support global vaccination efforts, GFWC launched a **Legislative Alert** to fund the CDC and the State Department for polio eradication programs and measles elimination, as well as support for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and UNICEF. This funding will bolster vaccine procurement and delivery and will increase coverage rates as organizations work to resume routine immunization and vaccine campaigns against deadly and debilitating diseases. GFWC signed a coalition letter, led by the March of Dimes, calling for full funding for the implementation of the recently enacted Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Reauthorization Act, which expands research, education, and intervention activities related to preterm birth. This request includes \$2 million for the required study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on premature birth that will focus on an assessment of the costs, impact of social factors, and gaps in public health programs, and make recommendations to prevent preterm

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birth. The U.S. has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world.

Legislative Summaries Posted on the GFWC Website: The GFWC 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities have been approved by the Executive Committee and are available on the GFWC [website](#) . In addition, you can review the actions of Congress in the GFWC 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities and Successes Executive Summary, which is now available on the [website](#).

**Continued below:**

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## What is the GFWC Learning Academy?

*The GFWC Learning Academy* is GFWC's online training site, offering numerous courses to meet our members' needs. Members seeking insight and training to advance their skill set and knowledge will find the training videos helpful as they continue their journey as club members.

### **BUILD YOUR TECHNOLOGY TOOLKIT**

**Canva Confidence: Easy Designs for GFWC Projects** - Laura Connelly, GFWC Social Media and Tech Support, Sonja Hults, GFWC California

**Get in the Grid, Winning with Google Sheets** - Laura Connelly, GFWC Social Media and Tech Support, Sonja Hults, GFWC California

**Google Drive Unlocked: Your File Management Superpower** – Laura Connelly, GFWC Social Media and Tech Support, Sonja Hults, GFWC California

**Serve Smarter with Google Forms** - Laura Connelly, GFWC Social Media and Tech Support, Sonja Hults, GFWC California

**Zero to Hero: Build Your Own (free) Google Website** - Laura Connelly, GFWC Social Media and Tech Support, Sonja Hults, GFWC California

### **FINANCE DETAILS**

**Building Effective Club Budgets** – Debra Capuano, GFWC Budget and Finance Committee

**Importance of Financial Oversight** - Debra Capuano, GFWC Budget and Finance Committee

**Mission Possible: 501(c)3** – Juliet Casper, GFWC Treasurer

**Understanding GFWC Financials for BOD Members** – Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President

### **LEADERSHIP LAUNCHED**

**Beyond the Agenda, Meeting Planning Tips** – Kim Sekulow, GFWC Conventions and Meetings Chairman, and Julie Walters, GFWC Conventions and Meetings Co-Chairman

**Leadership Transition Planning: Putting it Into Action** – Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary

**Power with Partners** – Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International Past President and Corporate Partners Development Committee Chairman

**The Agenda is not a Script** – Dara Bergdoll, RP

**Utilizing Governing Documents to Bring Success** – Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary

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## **MEMBERSHIP GUIDES**

**Is Your Club Attractive to Potential Members?** – Mary Beth Williams, GFWC Second Vice

President

**Power Up with Projects that POP** – Previously recorded live in 2022-2026

**The First Look: Membership Orientation** – Karyn Charvat, GFWC Membership Chairman

**Words that Ignite** – Marian StClair, GFWC International Past President and Women's History and Resource Center Committee Chairman

## **TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS**

**Benefits to Belonging** – Suellen Brazil, International President

**Finding Clues in the Details, the GFWC Award Entry Process** – Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First

Vice President

**GFWC Protocol** – Cynthia Geis, GFWC Protocol Chairman

**GPS to Our Future, Part 1: The Importance of Having a Strategic Plan** – Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President

**GPS to Our Future, Part 2: Using SWOT to Drive Success** – Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice

President

**Rules of Order: A Beginner's Guide to Parliamentary Procedure, Parts 1 - 4** –

Carol Habgood, PRP, GFWC Parliamentarian and Lucy Hicks, PRP

## **GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES 2024-2026 (recorded live)**

**Safe Surfin' Foundation Celebrates GFWC Advocacy for Children Week 2024** with David Coffey,

GFWC Honorary Chairman

**Yellow Tulip Project Celebrates GFWC Advocacy for Children Week 2024** with Suzanne Fox,

Co-Founder of The Yellow Tulip Project, Honorary Chairman for GFWC Juniors' Special Programs

and Juniorettes

**ESO Beyond the Page, Mystery with a Mission, 2025** with Amy S. Peele, Author and GFWC

Education and Libraries/Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman

**When Passion and Purpose Collide, 2025**, Ann Lauer, Quilt Pattern and Fabric Designer and

GFWC Honorary Chairman for Arts & Culture and Signature Program

**Heart Health Awareness Month 2025 with Jude Mabone'**, Miss District of Columbia 2023, and

GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman

**Advancing a Brand and Building Membership, 2025**, with Leslie Capps, Founder of Wild

Woman Marketing And GFWC Communications and PR Honorary Chairman

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**Safe Surfin' Foundation Celebrates GFWC Advocacy for Children Week 2025 w**  
David

Coffey, Safe Surfin' Foundation Region Manager and Honorary Chairman for GFWC Juniors'

Special Program, with Eddie Worth, President of Safe Surfin' Foundation

**Yellow Tulip Project Celebrates GFWC Advocacy for Children Week 2025** with  
Suzanne Fox,

Co-Founder of The Yellow Tulip Project, Honorary Chairman for GFWC Juniors' Special Programs,

with Ysanne Bethel, Director of Youth Engagement at the Yellow Tulip Project.

**GFWC ADVOCACY SERIES – Recorded Live 2022-2024**

**Presented by GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Committee**

**Power Up: Elements of Advocating**

**Power Up: LAC is for Me**

**Power Up: Legislation and Leadership**

**Power Up: Partners Toward Progress - Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3**

## **Acronyms making sense out of them!**

GFWC CT – General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut – an organization of all the Federated clubs in CT. We have 29 clubs in our Federation

GFWC CT EC - General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut Executive Committee – the state officers

GFWC CT BOD - General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut Board of Directors – Officers, District Presidents, Assistant District Presidents, Community Service Program, Advancement Plans, GFWC Special Projects and Standing Committee Chairmen, Standing Committee Members, Past State Presidents and one Club President from each member club shall constitute the Board of Directors.

NE District – North Central District

SE District – Southeast District

SW District – Southwest District

NW – Northwest District

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**Living the Volunteer Spirit Photos:** Our first district day – North Central District is in the books. I am so glad to see so many Living the Volunteer Spirit photos. Keep taking them. They will be the history of 2026 for your club.



This photo is not a winner, but the great memories of this service project are winning. GFWC Manchester CT Women's Club assembled over 50 Blessing Bags for a local organization providing personal care items, cold weather protection and kindness.

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## **GFWC CT CALENDAR – updated 2026**

- 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 2             Honor Flight Connecticut – Bradley International Airport  
<https://honorflightct.org/home>
- May 15-16        GFWC CT May Convention Hilton Garden Inn – Windsor, CT.  
Hotel Registration Link:  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/bdlwhgi-90q-ecf9bf32-4205-4b4c-af1d-06a811811155/>
- June 26–29      GFWC 2026 Annual Convention  
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona  
Hotel Registration Link:  
[https://book.passkey.com/event/51125855/owner/8712/home?utm\\_source=brevo&utm\\_campaign=News%20%20Notes%20-%20January%2015%202026&utm\\_medium=email](https://book.passkey.com/event/51125855/owner/8712/home?utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=News%20%20Notes%20-%20January%2015%202026&utm_medium=email)

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

May Convention on May 16 will be the last meeting of the 2024-2026 administration. A service project to be done in during the convention will be announced soon!

## **SAVE THE DATE – MAY CONVENTION – First Timer Special Offer**

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## **We Finish Strong!**

As we reach the end of this administration, a change in leadership for many clubs as well as GFWC CT, I look back on what I had hoped we would be able to accomplish. Maybe some goals were not met – be we adapted to the needs of our members and clubs and accomplished something different. Thank you for your support as we made a difference in our communities.

May Convention will be May 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Windsor. Our guest will be Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary. She is from Missouri and will be the keynote speaker.

Who should come to Convention? Everyone! It is so important our members attend the convention. We will be recognizing the service performed in 2025 and looking to the future of our Federation. GFWC CT will be sending every club president a coupon equal to the meeting fee to use for any member who has never attended a state meeting. I remember the impact of my first state meeting – it was life changing.

Convention and Installation of the new Executive Committee will be done all in one day!

Hotel registration link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/bdlwhgi-90q-ecf9bf32-4205-4b4c-af1d-06a811811155/>

Check your inbox or [www.gfwcct.org](http://www.gfwcct.org) for the Call to Convention.

Kind Hearts, Brave Minds, Fierce Spirits! Our members make a difference.

Yours in Federation,

Kathy Barnes

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