

PENNSYLVANIA CLUBWOMAN

Official Publication of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania



Volume 102 Issue 3 March 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021 GFWC PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MEETING/CONVENTION

Rescheduled to July 23-25, 2021; at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey

The GFWC Pennsylvania Board of Directors reluctantly approved to reschedule the annual meeting convention to insure the health and safety of all members. This meeting will take the place of the Summer Leadership conference that was planned for those dates. Registration information will be in the June issue of the Clubwoman. Suellen Brazil, GFWC First Vice President will be our guest for the weekend. We hope all members will attend this important meeting to conduct the business of the organization, renew friendships and have some fun. At last, we will meet in person!!

SPRING DISTRICT MEETING/ARTS DAY

The Spring District Meeting/Arts Day will be virtual via Zoom and an invitation will be send to club presidents 7-10 days prior to the scheduled date. The Arts awards for club entries will be announced and an informational program will be presented. The meeting dates and times are as follows:

South Central - Thursday, March 11, 6:30 pm
North Central - Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am
Northwestern - Friday, March 12, 10:00 am

Southwestern - Saturday, March 13, 10:00 am
Southeastern - Friday, March 26, 10:00 am
Northeastern - Saturday, March 27, 10:00 am

ARTS AWARDS PRESENTATION

A State Arts Awards presentation is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st via Zoom and an invitation will be sent to club presidents with the details as finalized.

Thank you to all the clubs for your club reports that were informative and very interesting in the creative ways you met the challenges of the pandemic. It is great to see clubs have embraced the 'Galaxy Goals' collecting eyeglasses, donating dollars for Fill a Glass with Hope and making baby hats and blankets for March of Dimes. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with awards at convention.

Is your club seeking ideas for meetings? The state officers and chairman are available for any meeting, in person or virtual, so please let us know. You may contact them individually and their contact information is on the website or the state directory.

Let's hope we will all be vaccinated soon and be able to meet in person with our wonderful Federation sisters. We all deserve a big hug so here is my virtual hug to each of you.

a big
HUG



Together in Federation,
Sandy Hauenstein
GFWC Pennsylvania President



GENERAL FEDERATION
of **WOMEN'S CLUBS**

2021 GFWC PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MEETING/CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Reviewed by the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee on January 19, 2021 with the following recommendations made. They will be voted on at the GFWC PA Business meeting/Convention in July. The complete list of Resolutions is available on the GFWC Pennsylvania website; gfwcpennsylvani.org.

GFWC PENNSYLVANIA RESOLUTIONS

A resolution adopted by GFWC Pennsylvania shall be in effect for ~~six (6) years~~ **four (4)** unless rescinded, reaffirmed or amended before that time. Resolutions which have expired may be reintroduced.

**To review GFWC's current resolutions, go to GFWC.org and select Member Portal, then My Digital Library, click on Resources; go to the letter R in the alphabetical listing of resources and click on Resolutions July 2020 for the complete document.

Community Service Program titles to be updated as editorial changes to align with GFWC.

~~Conservation Community Service Program~~ **Environment**

~~Education Community Service Program~~ **Education & Libraries**

~~Home Life Community Service Program~~ **Health and Wellness**

~~Public Issues Community Service Program~~ **Civic Engagement & Outreach**

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

(Adopted 1992, reaffirmed 1998, amended 2003, reaffirmed 2009, 2015) – to be reaffirmed 2021

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

(Adopted 2009, reaffirmed 2015) – to be amended 2021

Whereas, A vision of our society is an enhanced environment for healthier living; and

Whereas, We, the General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania, ~~are just at the beginning stages of educating~~ continue to educate our federated club women on ecological issues; and

Whereas, We, the members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania, ~~are realizing~~ realize the effect of the invasive plant species to our ecological system and the effect they will continue to produce in the future; therefore

~~RECYCLING MUNICIPAL WASTE~~

~~(Adopted 1988, reintroduced and amended 1994, 1999, 2005, reaffirmed 2011) – to be deleted~~

EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Adopted 1992, reaffirmed 1998, amended 2003, reaffirmed 2009, 2015) – to be reaffirmed

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

(Adopted 1991, reintroduced 1997, amended 2003, reaffirmed 2009, amended 2015) – to be reaffirmed

LIBRARIES

(Adopted 2014) – to be amended 2021

RESOLVED, the General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania supports the PA Forward initiative; adding an integrated library system that will lower cost and improve resource sharing for citizens and making library services available for all Pennsylvania citizens, and the efforts of the Pennsylvania Library Association to strengthen community and school libraries in Pennsylvania.

2021 GFWC PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MEETING/CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

ORGAN DONORS

(Adopted 2004, reaffirmed 2009, 2015) – to be deleted

FOOD BANKS OF PENNSYLVANIA - Recommend adoption 2021

Whereas, The food banks of Pennsylvania provide nourishing foods for needy families; and

Whereas, There is an increasing number of individuals and families across Pennsylvania suffering from food insecurity who depend on their local food bank to provide nutritious foods for themselves and their families; therefore,

Resolved, That the clubwomen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Pennsylvania strongly support the food banks of Pennsylvania by donating food and/or funds, volunteering time and advocating for the food banks of Pennsylvania.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

ALCOHOL ADVERTISEMENTS ON RADIO AND TV

~~(Adopted 1985, amended 1991, reintroduced & amended 1997, reaffirmed 2003, amended 2009, 2010) – to be deleted~~

FLAG DAY USA – PAUSE FOR THE PLEDGE

~~(Adopted 1987, reaffirmed 1999, 2005, 2011) – to be deleted~~

OVERSIZED VEHICLES

~~(Adopted 2005, amended and reaffirmed 2011) – to be deleted~~

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

(Adopted 2004, reaffirmed 2009, 2015) – to be reaffirmed 2021

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

(Adopted 1991, reintroduced & amended 1997, 2003, reaffirmed 2009, 2015) – to be amended 2021

Whereas, Approximately two and a half million Pennsylvania women, children and men will be victims of sexual violence during the course of their lifetime; and

WOMEN IN POLICY MAKING POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT

~~(Adopted 1967, amended by substitution 1991, 1997, amended 2003, 2009, 2015) – to be deleted~~

COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC RELATIONS

THE GFWC “UNITY IN DIVERSITY” EMBLEM

(Adopted 1992, reaffirmed 2007, reviewed 2013) – to be reaffirmed 2021

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

GFWC PA CONVENTION SCHEDULING

(Adopted 1981, reintroduced 1992, 1998, 2003, reaffirmed 2009, amended 2015) - to be reaffirmed 2021

March of Dimes HATS and BLANKETS FOR BABIES

GFWC PA Clubwomen can get involved providing Baby Hats and Blankets to March of Dimes for the baby showers they host for military families through their Mission Healthy Baby program. Handmade blankets may be sewn or no-sew blankets, knitted, crocheted, or quilted, etc.

Instructions are available at gfwcpennsylvania.org. The items will be collected at the 2021 Business Meeting/Convention July 23-25, 2021 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey.

GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Yolanda Cypher, Chairman

2841 Old Route 422 East, Fenelton, PA 16034

724-282-3447 yfc2841@gmail.com

Our clubs' projects in promoting advocacy through programs and volunteering have certainly been affected by the pandemic. However, as individuals we can still advocate for children within our neighborhoods and families.

In the U.S., the number of children and adolescents affected by obesity has more than tripled since the 1970's. The current pandemic contributes even further to the problem due to closure of schools, lack of mandated activity programs within the schools, and closure of after school activities. Obesity is a risk factor for increased severity of Covid-19, as excess weight decreases an individual's immune response. The chance for obesity can be reduced by offering more fruits and vegetables, creating a schedule for meals and snacks, keeping healthy food in the home and reducing screen time after the hours of virtual learning for school.

Also, as parents and grandparents we can model healthy eating and exercising habits. Include a child in meal and snack planning and preparation. Invite a child for a walk in a local park or nearby rails to trails to provide exercise and stress relief. Perhaps the child can walk their dog or yours! Plan an interesting diversional activity that does not include food. Play music and have a dance party! You will be benefiting your child—and yourself!

Please remember that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Pinwheel information can be obtained at preventchildabuse.org. Also, hopefully, your club is involved in the GFWC 2021 Blanket Challenge. Now is the perfect time to make baby blankets and hats to share with military families expecting a baby. The Blanket Toolkit can be found on the GFWC website.

JENNIE AWARD

Joyce M Jones, Chairman

471 W Shawnee Avenue, Plymouth, PA 18651

570.814.529 joyce.m.jones@live.com

Did you know that The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal lifetime excellence?

The Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community and as members of a family or extended family.

Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor. Members are judged for their:

- Commitment to Club
- Commitment to Community
- Commitment to Family

Judging criteria, award rules, and The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is located in the 2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual under the Awards, Contests, and Grants Section. The GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form is included on the last page and may be downloaded from the GFWC Member Portal.

Visit: <https://www.gfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Jennie-Award-July-1.2020.pdf>

GFWC Pennsylvania has many deserving members and is challenging each club look within their membership and submit one nominee. Club nominations must be submitted to this Chairman and postmarked by June 1, 2021.

HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH (HOBY) LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

CENTRAL PA



Carol Foley

21 Wagner Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036
717-566-0637 cfoley@aol.com

It has been decided the 2021 Leadership Seminar will be **virtual** and will be held **June 11-13**.

When there is an in-person seminar, the registration fee is a graduating scale and schools are limited to only two (2) ambassadors due to occupancy limits. With the virtual seminar, the fee has been reduced to a flat \$225 per student, and schools may register as many students as they choose to pay the registration fee for and attend.

This is a wonderful opportunity for more students to have the HOBY experience and learn about leadership! Please contact your school to see if they have this update, and find out how many students they plan to send to the seminar.

As for club donations, we are asking for the \$225 registration fee, if possible, to be sent to GFWC Pennsylvania headquarters with the form each club president received in the bulk mailing. Of course, as usual, any amount is accepted and is greatly appreciated. Understandably, the COVID 19 restrictions have hindered fundraising efforts and donations may be limited for 2021.

Thanks for your long standing support of HOBY.

EASTERN PA



Lois Robinson

100 Betcher Road, Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-2960(H) 610-716-6064(C) drloisdrobinson1@gamil.com

The 2021 Eastern Region Youth Leadership Seminar will be held virtually this spring on June 11-12. This virtual seminar format is like the 2020 seminar from last year. Our Eastern region student attendee from 2020 reported that the seminar was very meaningful and provided good information on leadership practices and good information on future endeavors.

The goal of HOBY is to have high school sophomores explore their leadership skills through these timely programs. All virtual seminars are interactive and follow the HOBY leadership development curriculum allowing these ambassadors to discover leadership from various perspectives. After each seminar, HOBY alumni are challenged to complete 100 hours of service to use these new skills in giving back to their community.

With the virtual format, the registration fee is a flat \$225. Each club is asked to sponsor at least one student, if possible. Schools may register additional students and pay the \$225 fee. Schools can register students on the HOBY website. Go to <https://www.hoby.org/programs/state-leadership-seminars/> click on the State and Virtual Leadership Seminars Schedules /Dates, then Pennsylvania-Eastern and fill out the form. Each club may send their \$225 registration fee to GFWC Pennsylvania headquarters with the appropriate form.

Thanks for your support of our youth leaders with this program.

WESTERN PA



Melissa Somerville

305 Star Grille Rd, Cabot, PA 16023
724-352-2604 msemelis949@zoominternet.net

The HOBY Western seminar will once again be held virtually. We did hear from last year's student and he felt he did learn a lot from his virtual experience.

If you do not have a student to sponsor, did you know that there is a form on the HOBY website for "waiting students" who would like to attend but have no sponsors?

Just go to <https://www.hoby.org/programs/state-leadership-seminars/> and click on the State and Virtual Leadership Seminar Schedule/Dates, and then Pennsylvania-West. Then click on the Community Nomination Wait List, fill out the form and you should receive a student's name to sponsor.

We need to get our students involved in this outstanding program if we want them to lead the way into the future.

FUNDRAISING

JoAnn Propcheck, Chairman
 1012 Penn View Lane Duncansville 16635-7716
 814-693-9474 aj123check@aol.com

Hello fellow clubwomen!

We have some fundraising to accomplish and some really nice items to purchase! Let's start with the "Shine On-Volunteer" pin, the GFWC PA car decal, and let's add the "Shine On" trio of an Apron, Pizza Cutter and Cutting Board!

It may be easier for your members to order as a group at one of your meetings to save on postage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to text, call or email me.

The order form is shown below. Please refer to the gfwcpennsylvania.org website for this form. Thanks and have a lovely fall!



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS PENNSYLVANIA				
Sandy Hauenstein, President				
Fundraising				
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and not being able to meet we are offering the following items through mail order or social distancing if available.				
SEND ORDERS TO:				
JoAnn Propcheck, 1012 Penn View Lane, Duncansville PA 16635-7716				
or				
Sandy Hauenstein, 376 Stonehedge Lane, Mechanicsburg PA 17055-7012				
Make checks payable to: GFWC PA Fundraising				
Item	Cost per Item	Shipping for 1 item	Quantity	Total
Shine On Pin	\$5.00	\$3.80		
Car Decal	\$3.00	Include self addressed envelope (10 or less); no charge if shipped with other items		
Apron	\$18.00	\$4.60		
Cutting Board	\$10.00	\$5.30		
Pizza Cutter	\$4.00	\$3.80		
NOTE: If multiple items ordered shipping will be determined				
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$	

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Fenstermacher, Chairman
4348 Wendy Way, Schwenksville, PA 19473
610-489-2937 m80fenstermacher@gmail.com

“When Will I See You Again” resonates in the minds of many GFWC-PA members. Some Clubs are not meeting, others are having ZOOM meetings. My thoughts are how very important it is to stay connected with your members. Try the old-fashioned way – call them on the telephone! They would love to hear that cheery voice. Loneliness can become a chronic disease.

In a recent communication with Becky Wright, GFWC Membership Chairman, suggestions were given to have members use the GFWC Membership Portal. Offered are a New Member Orientation Power Point and Start A New Club Quickly and Easily. Also listed are discounts on various items/businesses. Check it out.

Have you signed up for **News and Notes**? Call GFWC or visit their website www.gfwc.org to sign up. These printouts are emailed to you weekly and are most informative.

My thoughts were to increase our membership by 69 by January 1, 2021. Unfortunately, this did not happen. **My new date is May 31, 2021.** Keep looking and make this dream come true.

I encourage all of you to live by this quote:

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” Mother Theresa

LEGISLATION / PUBLIC POLICY



Carolyn Smith , Co-Chairman
6 N. Riverview Ave. Columbia, NJ 07832
908-475-5627 carolyns411@embarqmail.com

Dottie Sawyer, Co-Chairman
1628 Erie Court Effort, PA 18330
570-629-56-31 victorian.65@verizon.net

Domestic Violence and depression during this pandemic are triggering a surge in domestic violence cases in extraordinary proportions!

Due to the quarantine, many are separated from family and friends; another factor is the lack of jobs, money for food and shelter. Food banks across the country are overwhelmed by people needing assistance.

The HR 1585 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act 2019, has been stalled in Congress, awaiting passage. Passed by the House in April 2019, it sits in the Senate awaiting a vote. Hopefully, it will pass when the new congress reconvenes. Once it is passed in the Senate, it will go back to the House for passage then on to the President’s desk to be signed.

FY2021 Act, the Victims of Crime, would grant federal funding for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, trafficking and other crimes to provide needed community- based programs.

Hopefully, the vaccine for COVID-19 will lessen the burden for many and things will get back to normal in this country.

gfwcpennsylvania.org
Member Portal password : ShineOn2020

HEALTH and WELLNESS

Mary Braun, Chairman
314 Baumgardner Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112
717-514-9124 mebraun22@yahoo.com

Now that the holidays are over, but the Covid 19 Pandemic is not, what can we do to make ourselves feel better mentally and physically? Taking a walk is a great idea, but not when it is too cold outside.

To get motivated, try using your phone. There is a free, easy APP called the Gratitude Happiness Journal where you write one or more sentences reflecting on the good things that happened in your day. Do this at the end of each day. Then put your phone away, turn off your TV and unwind with a good book or relaxing music before bedtime. Be sure to get 7 to 9 hours good night's sleep.

Another idea is to make yourself smile at someone each day. Say something nice to someone. You will be surprised at how it makes you feel good about yourself.

Getting into a daily routine, be it for work, or at home, has a positive impact on you. Start slowly to set a simple goal and build on it as you progress.

Remember to keep wearing your mask (over your nose and mouth) whenever you go outside, six-foot social distance, and wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, often.

The **"Fill a Glass with Hope" Challenge** is being accepted by many clubs. Thank you. This challenge is for each Federated District in Pennsylvania to raise \$252.50, which equals 2020 servings of milk and dairy products. The money raised will be donated to the Pennsylvania Food Banks so they can purchase dairy products for food banks across the state. As your club is accepting this challenge remember to keep a description of the fundraising project to send to the State Health & Wellness Chairman. Checks should be made out the GFWC PA and given to your district chairman who will send it to:

GFWC PA Headquarters Attn: Fill a Glass with Hope
4076 Market Street, Suite 211
Camp Hill, PA 17011-4200

All monies should be sent to headquarters no later than April 15, 2021.

The district raising the most funds for this project will be recognized.

Again, thank you so much for accepting this challenge to help the needy.

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & SOCIAL MEDIA

Sue Hardenbrook, Chairman
90 Buckthorn Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015
717-243-9872 vsranch1@comcast.net

Have you been meeting this past year using Zoom? It is a great tool to use when you are not able to meet in person. Here are a few ideas from our GFWC Communications Chairman Karyn Charvat to make the meetings more fun.

- Have a "pet social" with your pets at the meeting. Show them on screen and introduce them.
- Choose two or three members per meeting to show off their house. Take your phone or tablet around the house showing other members your home.
- Have a "head and shoulders" trivia game. The host has trivia questions with two answers, one answer is heads the other is shoulders. If you miss the answer, turn off the video of the meeting (you can still see and hear others). The one left on screen at the end is the winner. Have a prize to send to the winner.
- This game is called "pancakes or waffles". For round one, decide if members like pancakes or waffles better and take the majority. Round two - chose between waffles and tacos, for example. Continue with as many rounds as you like changing the choices.
- Guess the movie by using "emojis".

Keeping members engaged and interested will liven up your meetings and bring some fun to a portion of the meeting.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH

Karen Stauffer, Chairman
401 Reservoir Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-697-2546 karendee44@hotmail.com

Are club members informed about current information and policies generated by their local government and school districts? Do they read the websites and/or newsletters of these entities?

Years ago, a club member attended such meetings and reported pertinent information back to the club. We came away informed and able to respond appropriately when needed. Information obtained can lead to meaningful projects and the responsibility of attending meetings can be shared. Informed citizens help to build stronger communities.

Have you been clearing out items during those long hours spent at home? Such items can be collected at your door by Green Drop. Profits generated by sales at thrift stores goes to either American Red Cross, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Federation of the Blind, or Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Philadelphia. The donor designates which charity she wishes to support. This service is mainly in the eastern and south-central portion of PA. By calling 1-888-944-3767 or going to www.gogreendrop.com, one can learn more about the pick-up information in your area. Pick up appointments are made by phone or email. In 2018, proceeds to charities exceeded \$3.1 million dollars. Should you have a house to empty with 70 or more boxes or bags of items, they will pack it and remove the items.

The pandemic situation might temporarily affect this service.

ARTS and CULTURE

Kathy Cassel, Chairman
914 Broad Street, Perkasie, PA 18944
215-896-7747 kathymcassel@gmail.com

Spring is around the corner! I hope everyone is staying healthy!

I would like to thank you for entering the Arts and Culture. I'm so looking forward to judging, giving awards, etc.

I have never been a strong writer, but, I heard that the best writing is done when life has its biggest impact on you and your loved ones around you. As such, I'm predicting some of the best ever short stories and poems coming out this year. I can't wait to read the winners! I would love to read everyone's entries, if you would like to share them with me after the judging.

Presidents thank you for encouraging your members to take part in the Arts and Culture. And members thank you for taking part. Look forward to seeing everyone in person soon!

Please reach out to your local, county, district chairman, or myself with any questions you may have.

The Arts and Culture Committee is planning an Arts Awards virtual presentation for Saturday, May 1st and details will be sent via email to club presidents.

LEADERSHIP

Lois A. Richards, Chairman
13068 Curwensville Tyrone Hwy., Curwensville, PA 16833
814-236-3422 lrichards@penn.com

The GFWC Leadership Team is proud to promote the GFWC Leadership Toolkit, which is available online at www.gfwc.org. This resource is a digital library of topics available in the Member Portal on the GFWC website. Recently announced are two (2) new resources in the Club, District, State Leader Resources sub-folder:

Start a New Club Quickly and Easily

Teach Parliamentary Protocol in a Workshop.

Check them out!

On another note, in this time of Covid 19, it takes determined, courageous leaders to keep their club members connected. The main personal trait to accomplish this may be **creativity**. In addition to meeting in person, clubs are finding alternate ways to meet, including Zoom, Big Marker, and other technical platforms. Other traits for a great leader are integrity, competence, fairness, and vision, just to name a few. Be the kind of leader who finds ways to keep her members involved so they don't lose interest. Projects can still be accomplished during this time. Once this pandemic is over, your members **will** be together again - able to attend meetings, conferences, and conventions!

ENVIRONMENT

Mary Seyfert, Chairman
P.O. Box 363, Leesport, PA 19533
570-817-9817 mseyfert199@gmail.com

“I am the heat of your hearth, the shade screening you from the sun; I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table; I am the handle of your hoe, and door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin, I am the gift of God and the friend of man.” - Author, unknown

Ah, trees! The U.S. Forest Service reports the following benefits of healthy trees:

- 100 mature trees catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year
- 100 trees remove 53 tons of carbon dioxide and 430 lbs. of other air pollutants per year
- strategically placed trees save up to 56% of annual air conditioning costs

However, deforestation has been increasing in recent years. Will trees always be there to protect us from storm runoff, soil erosion or the effects of global warming?

With Arbor Day coming up on Friday, April 30, now is our chance to become knowledgeable on deforestation (the cutting, clearing and removal of natural forest), its causes, and ways to curb it. We can take action as simply as planting a tree, or making a donation to Nature Conservancy's Plant One Billion Trees campaign.

You can find more ideas on the Arbor Day Foundation website at www.arborday.org. You can also find information on the history of Arbor Day, including educational materials and even alternative ways to celebrate while maintaining proper social distancing.

Happy Arbor Day to all my fellow Club Women!

EDUCATION and LIBRARIES

Judy Schwambach, Chairman
1618 Bennett Street, Laureldale, PA 19605
610-9298674 schwambacj@comcast.net

STEM -- STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

“Of all the illiterate people in the world two-thirds are female.”
Quoted from *World Population Review*.

Your club can help to change this unfortunate statistic. Talk to your local school district about resource classes or collaborative classes. Ask teachers if your club could come to a class and introduce students to STEM activities.

Join a class and “teach” virtually.

Watch for video links. There are easy projects that you can view on video that will show you how to do STEM activities. Such activities can easily be reproduced in a classroom setting or educational setting both in person or virtually.

Another possibility is to visit *Student Mentoring.com* to see an innovative mentoring program. This program is based in its pioneering technology platform, college students can conveniently find and collaborate with mentors from diverse industries and professions to achieve academic and career goals.

Gone are the days when women could only choose between teaching and nursing for a career. Gone too, is the idea that women were not smart enough to vote!

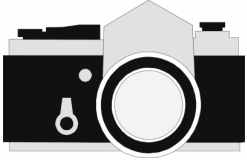
Just as we have overcome the many stereotypes from which our mothers and grandmothers suffered, we must encourage young women to become scientists, technicians, mathematicians, and engineers.

VISION
IMPAIRMENT
AWARENESS

FYI...

March is *Workplace Eye Wellness Month*
April is *Sports Eye Safety Month*
May is *Healthy Vision Month*

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...



A photographer for the 2021 Annual Meeting/Convention, July 23-25th at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey.

Duties include taking candid and posed photos as requested. Photos to be uploaded to a website for members to view and purchase.

Contact Sandy Hauenstein at sandygfwc@outlook.com to volunteer.

The Community Service Program Chairmen and Advancement Area Chairmen ...

Will present workshops in April, for your information, and to plan projects for the upcoming year. The workshops would have been presented at the Summer Leadership Conferences, but due to the rescheduling of meetings, we are offering them this spring.

Details will be emailed to club presidents.

“The 1895 Society”

Preserving Our Past & Ensuring Our Future

The 1895 Society was formed in 2015 to raise funds for GFWC Pennsylvania administrative costs and to avoid raising the annual dues.

The purpose of the 1895 Society is to help fund the expenses associated with maintaining the existence of GFWC Pennsylvania.

Membership Levels:

\$18.95	Certificate of Appreciation
\$189.50	GFWC Pennsylvania 1895 Society Pin & Certificate
\$1,895.00	GFWC Pennsylvania 1895 Society Pin, Pen & Lifetime Membership Certificate

Members will be recognized by District each year in the Program Booklet at the GFWC Pennsylvania Annual Business Meeting and Convention, and periodically in the Clubwoman Newsletter. The Deadline for recognition in the Convention Program is March 31 each year. Annual memberships expire on June 30.

*Now is the time to make an investment in our organization!
Your support is greatly appreciated.*

1895 Society Contributors

Sue Hardenbrook

Barbara Longstreth

GFWC West Side Woman's Club

2020 WHRC Special Award: Women's Suffrage Centennial

In recognition of the historic significance of the Women's Suffrage Centennial, GFWC is offering a cash award of \$100. to the GFWC club that best promoted the celebration in its community.

This award program is *in addition to, and separate from, the WHRC Advancement Plan Award Program.*

- Use the GFWC Club Creativity Award Cover Sheet (Club Manual, page 12).
- Entries *may* include projects entered in other Community Service Programs.
- Entries are *not* limited to one project.
- Project(s) timeline is: January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
- One page narrative should include:
 - club size
 - project(s) description
 - impact/number of people reached
 - volunteer hours spent
 - in-kind donations, dollars spent, if applicable, dollars raised, if applicable.

Entry Deadline: March 15, 2021, 12 Midnight, EST

Send the completed GFWC Club Creativity Award Cover Sheet and club narrative, one per club, directly:

- **By mail to:** WHRC Committee Chairman Hope Royer, 700 Hermitage Road, Manakin Sabot, Virginia, 23103
- **By email to:** hoperoyer@aol.com, WHRC Committee Chairman, Hope Royer
- **Copy to:** Shelly Smolnery, GFWC PA WHRC Chairman at [msmolnery@yahoo.com](mailto:mamolnery@yahoo.com).

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2021 SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS / ARTS DAY and OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Northeastern District	Saturday, March 27, 2021	ZOOM	10 am
North Central District	Saturday, March 20, 2021	ZOOM	10 am
Northwestern District	Friday, March 19, 2021	ZOOM	10 am
Southeastern District	Friday, March 26, 2021	ZOOM	10 am
South Central District	Thursday, March 11, 2021	ZOOM	6:30 pm
Southwestern District	Saturday, March 13, 2021	ZOOM	10 am
Arts Awards Presentation	Saturday, May 1, 2021	ZOOM	TBD
Central PA HOBY 2021 Leadership Seminar	June 11-13, 2021	Virtual	TBD
Eastern PA HOBY 2021 Leadership Seminar	June 11 and 12, 2021	Virtual	TBD
Western PA HOBY 2021 Leadership Seminar	TBD	Virtual	TBD
2021 GFWC Pennsylvania Annual Business Meeting and Convention	July 23-25, 2021- 2021	Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey	TBD

CLUB NEWS

Our **GFWC Pennsylvania - Bangor** club enjoyed our Wreath Sale to Support the Bangor Library function during the week of November 15th..

Nine (9) members took part, at varying times, at the three workshops.. 30 wreaths from Ginder's Greenhouse were beautifully decorated, while members enjoyed each other's company. It was a nice change of pace during Covid times.

Pictured to the right are Clare Osmun and Carolyn Smith.



Pictured to the left are Clare Osmun, June Hess, and Carolyn Smith.



And pictured below are June Hess, Heidi Bates with a completed wreath, and Clare Osmun.



In the bottom right photo, club Treasurer, Judy Shaw, is shown presenting Bangor Public Library Director Kathleen Lynch with a check for \$900.

Also pictured is Yvonne Humphreys, member of both our **GFWC Pennsylvania - Bangor** club and the Friends of the Library, and Patty Zito, President of Friends of the Bangor Library.

The wreaths were sold at the library during Small Business weekend in November, by Friends of the Library. The proceeds of the sale were matched by the club.

June Hess, Heidi Bates, Club President, and Clare Osmun are shown with a sample of the completed wreaths..



CLUB NEWS



The **Community Club of Collegeville** participated in The Wreaths Across America National Program to honor our veterans.

It began as an impression on a young boy from Maine, who visited Arlington National Cemetery at age 12, evolved as an adult, and the owner of a wreath making company, in 2005, who began by sending his surplus wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery, to be placed at the tombstones of Veterans.

This effort evolved over the years to becoming a national event, sponsored by many donations and efforts of volunteer organizations, at over 1000 memorial sites across America. This event takes place in December of each year.

Pictured to the left are club members, Heather Lewis, JoAnne O'Donnell, and Karen McCaslin, at St. James Episcopal Cemetery in Evansburg

The club donated 26 wreaths to be placed in honor of the veterans here.

The club Pennsylvania also donated 500 pairs of eyeglasses to the Collegeville Lions Club for the vision impairment awareness project of GFWC Pennsylvania.

The goal of the Federation is to collect 2020 pairs of glasses to increase awareness of vision Impairment of children and adults.

Club members placed collection boxes in several local businesses and went door to door to make their collection. If you have a pair of glasses you would like to donate, please contact your local Lions Club, or the Pennsylvania Association of the Blind.

Three members of the Lions Club were given the eyeglasses at the November meeting of the Community Club.

Pictured on the right, left to right are club members Luanne Grala and Karen McCaslin; Lions Club Zone Rep Kevin Lukens; President of the Collegeville Lions Club Carol Olinick; and Whitmarsh Club Zone Rep Daniel Hummel.



A Thank You message from Mary Fenstermacher of the **GFWC PA Women's Civic Club of Schwenksville**, upon the death of her husband Jay...

"I would like to thank my GFWC-PA family for their prayers, messages, mass cards and inspirational cards. My family and I have many, many precious and cherished memories of Jay which will always be with us. God's hope-filled promises have brought comfort to our souls and peace to our hearts."

CLUB NEWS

The **Federated Women's Club of Hershey** has embraced the challenge of being active during the COVID-19 pandemic. A fundraiser selling the unique patterned umbrella helped members stay in touch with each other. And for the eighth year members purchased remembrance wreaths for the Wreaths Across America project.

Donations to local food banks dwindled but did not stop! Volunteers helped pack lunches for children via Cocoa Packs. A club bimonthly newsletter was established reporting committee reports, activities, spotlighted members and offered seasonal recipes. IT WAS SENT VIA EMAIL AND MAIL. Members and husbands did food pickups from markets to food banks and used eyeglasses were collected for the local Lions Club. Members contributed items to be sold at a local outdoor craft show and our second fundraiser was a success.

The Federated Women's Club of Hershey is alive and well and anxious to resume its theme ... "serving the community since 1962 ... it's a Volunteer Thing".



The **GFWC Curwensville Woman's Club** president Rhonda Sheeder, left, and club member Peggy Barrett recently delivered gifts to the residents of Marion Manor in Curwensville.

The club has been donating bingo prizes throughout the year for the residents to enjoy. Club member Gladys Kline and friend Sue Newpher crocheted lap robes, prayer shawls, and hats for each resident.

Members of the club and friends donated a personal gift for each resident.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT - NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

Norma McClay

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This chairman read a book, "Adapting to Vision Challenges-Together," by Deborah A. Mink, author from Lancaster, PA. "Debbie" provides first-hand insight to the challenges faced with her husband's diagnosis Retinitis Pigmentosa. She describes the effects on the family, friendships, decisions they had to make and adapting to the challenges not only at home but also when traveling and she shares what is beneficial for caregivers. I was acquainted with Debbie and Keith when they lived in Meadville when he was first diagnosed. I recommend this book that is published in large print and is available on Amazon.

The following is a personal note from the author Deborah A. Mink:

I wrote the book, "Adapting to Vision Challenges-Together," because a few years ago many people asked me about things they could do to help their spouse that was losing vision. This book gives many tips on how to help someone and persons living with someone that is losing their sight. We have gone through many of these steps first-hand and I felt it would give hints to help others. The one thing I forgot to put in the book was that the Lions Club was especially helpful, especially the one in Meadville, PA and Lancaster, PA. The Lions Club paid to fly Keith to Rochester Michigan for cane training. They picked him up at the airport in Michigan and took him there for a week of training. Reach out to the Lions Club if you have issues with your eyesight. They helped us out before Keith lost most all of his vision to help prepare for what was ahead of us. I had the time because of COVID-19. The book is available on Amazon..



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PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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In Dauphin and Cumberland Counties, we have partnered with Vision Resources of Central PA (VROCP), an organization that works to provide opportunities to help individuals who are blind or visually impaired to flourish within and enrich our communities. Here is an overview of the services they offer.

1. **Case Management** – in-home support, transportation to appointments, life skills education meetings, referral services, and enrichment activities
2. **Access Technology Training** – use of computers and assistive technology equipment that will enhance employment skills and independence
3. **Low Vision Care** – exams and evaluations by optometrists, specialists, and opticians; adaptive training and in-home therapy; low vision equipment and convenience items (such as, large print Bingo cards, low vision pens, large print address books, talking watches and/or glucose meters)
4. **Reading Services** – news, information and entertainment provided via radio, live streaming, website, and podcasts
5. **Eye Clinic** – no-cost exams and glasses to adults and children who qualify
6. **Prevention of Blindness** – vision screenings, eye health and safety programs for children

VROCP also provides a free speakers bureau to increase community awareness of the services offered, and hosts a summer day camp for children (grades 4-12) to expose visually impaired children to developmental and sensory activities in safe and supportive environments.

As a means of earning money to pay for all the services they offer, VROCP has a line of business services: clay tile manufacturing, flooring center, mail services, laser printing, and building custodial care. Our state Clubwoman newsletter is printed at VROCP.

A visit to VROCP is being planned so members can see this amazing facility. In the meantime, clubs and individuals are encouraged to contact VROCP (717-238-2531) to determine how they can volunteer. More information is available at their website, VROCP.org, or follow them on Facebook.

VISION
IMPAIRMENT
AWARENESS