



Donna Malone, President

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

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This program is designed to remind GFWC members that each of us is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life for our citizens locally, regionally, nationally and globally. The program highlights and encourages citizenship; crime prevention, safety and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry and homelessness; and our military personnel and veterans.

School is about to begin and the first area to consider is Back Pack for the students. Back Packs (your school may use a different term) is a weekend food program for students experiencing food insecurity. Bags of non-perishable food are sent home with students prior to every weekend. These bags include two breakfast items, two lunch items, two snacks and two fruits. The guidance department decides which students are in need. This is strictly a volunteer organization and all information is kept confidential. In addition to providing food items, necessary items as clothes, shoes, school supplies, personal care items, gift cards and winter coats may also be provided depending on the needs in your community. Food and monetary donations from local service organizations, churches and community residents make this service possible. Does your community provide this service to their students? We should not have any students going hungry here in the United States!

As we move to the fall and winter seasons, we must remember our veterans. Visit your veteran center for a pizza party, an ice cream social or to play bingo (you might want to give the winners \$.25). They can use this money to buy candy, etc. Take gifts around the holidays. Suggestions: tooth brushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, disposable razors, batteries (AAA and AA), deodorant, white socks. Remember the female veterans also. They could use many of the items mentioned above and you could add golf socks, and sanitary items. Check with your veteran's center for a list of needed items. Our veterans have helped to make this country great. They should not be living on the streets. Visit them and honor them. Always remember to proudly fly your American flag.

This is also the time to remember the essential workers in your community. The first responders, police, 911 dispatchers, sanitation workers, mailmen, medical providers, military personnel and especially teachers. Invite them to a breakfast or just provide coffee and sweets. It's always good to be appreciated and remembered.

Peruse the GFWC Affiliate organization list. These organizations provide excellent recourses for discussions and also knowledge speakers for a club program. You might also want to consider one/a few for a monetary donation.

True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth. Eleanor Roosevelt

Remember – No matter what you say, its how you make them feel. Nick Saban