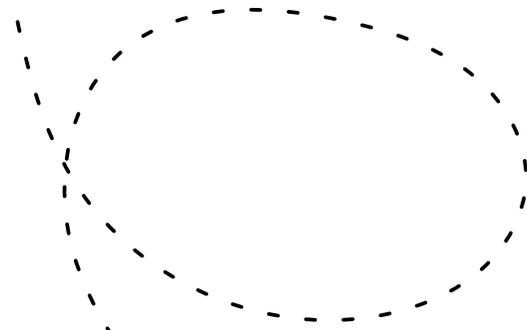


# The Maryland Clubwoman



The hum of bees is the voice of the garden



# The Maryland Clubwoman Staff

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The Maryland Clubwoman will now be emailed to any member with an email address on file. Email Diane Hill, Corresponding Secretary at nuggetpal@aol.com an updated address to ensure receipt of each publication.

Anyone wishing for a print version of the magazine may print this, or the black and white version directly.

## Next Issue Deadline

All articles and information for the Fall 2022 issue of *The Maryland Clubwoman* must be turned in to staff by July 5, 2022.

Please submit materials for inclusion to [TheMarylandClubwoman@Gmail.com](mailto:TheMarylandClubwoman@Gmail.com). Content may be submitted in form of Word or Google document, or in the body of an email. Files in the .pages (MAC OS) or PDF format will be returned to the sender for resubmission.

Clubwoman Connection: Any club project or activity which is scheduled through the end of December 2022 may be submitted for inclusion.

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# From The President's Desk



Dear Maryland Federation members,

And it happened in two years! All of our lives were changed because of Covid-19 and the Federation functions changed. In reading your excellent reports I discovered that Maryland Clubwomen are not only intelligent and resourceful but they are vastly creative, inspired and diligent in their philanthropic work. I took great delight and pride in reading them. All of you members, working in your clubs, chairing committees, serving as club, district or state officers have combined to make my term as your president priceless.

Your friendships mean the world to me. Your charitable work has been inspirational to me. Your volunteering has helped our Maryland communities, our state become yet an even better place to live in. Thank you for your support of our Military Families by donating so many needed items and funds. They help service personnel's families' needs and those of active, post active, and retired armed services members. You have helped mothers to be, children's needs, and service personnel themselves thereby relieving a stress from their lives. As we all know it is the whole family that serves not just one.

The chance to serve as your president has been an honor. I thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the State, Regional and International meetings. You have given me the chance to more fully understand the power that women, united in purpose, have and how our Federation gives all of us the chance to channel this power. You see a need, find ways to meet it, and use your vision to solve it.

Thank you for giving me such a wonderful experience. Thank you for keeping our Federation buzzing by your involvement. And thank you, finally, for offering me your support. I will always remember this time as one of my happiest.

In loving Federation ties, (Your Queen Bee for a while)

*Karen-Marie Wasik*

GFWC Maryland President, 2020-2022



# From Your Junior Director

Dear Federation Sisters,

Well, what a year 2021 has been. This year we have made much progress into getting back to normal. We have finally been able to hold in-person meetings, how wonderful. We have accomplished so much and came together when needed. I am so proud of what the Maryland Juniors were able to accomplish, right along with all the outstanding Maryland Clubwomen. I can't believe this is my last clubwoman newsletter to the Juniors and the Maryland Federation. I can say that I have learned a lot in my last two years but especially this last one. We have kept ourselves busy and not just with the same projects from year to year but stepping outside our comfort zone to open up to new ideas and be ready to help where needed and take on projects in new and different ways. We just held our Mid-Winter Rally the first weekend in February; it was via zoom but we still had a good turnout and a very successful meeting.

Right now, I am focusing on reports. I have read most of them and can't wait to finish reading about all of your club's hard work. I am excited to be working on the O.W.L.S. (Outdoors Where Leadership Soars) awards for our 123rd State Convention this year. The 2020-2022 administration was not a typical one to say the least. But as we all know; nothing ever goes just as planned. Regardless of how each of us sees the future, just know that the Federation is strong and we can accomplish anything that we set out to do. Let's stay active, strong, involved and kind. Look back and be grateful, look ahead and be hopeful and look around and be helpful. We are looking forward to our next Official Junior meeting at the Maryland State Convention April 9th. It will be a day to remember, so mark your calendars.

I would like to thank each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart for your continued support and friendship. These last two years have been anything but normal. I would especially like to thank my family, my Pocomoke Juniors and my Junior Board who have been a huge part in helping me continue as the Junior Director. I am so very blessed. Let's keep making the difference and let's keep Maryland safe and beautiful. I am so proud of the Juniors and all Maryland Clubwomen. Thank you for the opportunity to serve GFWC Maryland as the Director of Junior Clubs. I will cherish the memories.

In Federation Love and Friendship,

*Andrea*

GFWC Maryland Junior Director, 2020-2022



# “Bee” Active...Keep Our Federation Buzzing

## Get Ready for Convention!

You won't want to miss the speaker for the Saturday of Convention. Our speaker will be the acclaimed writer, Diana McDonough. Her two novels, Stuck in the Onesies and My Mother's Apprentice are humorous and tearful as she remembers incidents in her life living in Washington, D.C. during the 60s and 70s. You will enjoy laughter during her wonderful talk. On Sunday we will have the pleasure of our own Maryland Federation club member, Rosemary Thomas, talk about Leadership – its qualities and where you find it.

You'll be inspired! You'll be entertained! You'll have fun and raffles to join, maybe even win. So come to the Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs Convention **April 9-10**.

For your enjoyment and entertainment, you will find in The Call to Convention the evening offerings of a Paint and Sip Friday night (Junior's Fun Night April 8) and Bingo on Saturday. You know how Christy keeps us busy while fundraising via this fun way.

Come on! We haven't been together in a while. Let's have some fun as we enjoy camaraderie and maybe win one of the prizes – all will be found in the room as we gather for these events. The Bees will be Buzzing! Be sure to shine up your wings and buzz along with all the rest of the Hive!



## Federation Fun Night

### “Night Owls Bingo”

All clubwomen are invited to join Christy Swiger for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fabulous prizes!

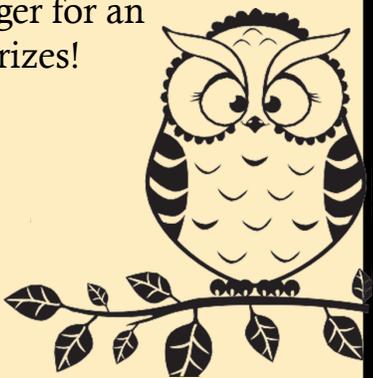
**Saturday, April 9, 2022**  
after the banquet

**\$20 for 10 games**  
Additional sets of bingo cards \$5

**FREE gift for advanced registrations**

**Pay at the door**  
checks or cash

**Reserve your seat on your meal reservation form**



# Maryland Convention Speakers & Entertainment

Our luncheon speaker on Saturday, April 9th will be author Diana McDonough. She is an award winning novelist and Maryland native. Her first novel, Stuck in the Onesies, grew out of experiences living outside of DC in the Maryland suburbs back in the 1960's and '70's when social issues first bubbled to the surface in the form of marches and riots. My Mother's Apprentice is a sequel to her first novel and the story of the next generation dealing with the tough issues of abortion and addiction. She is currently working a third novel of historical fiction, Ginger Star, which will complete the trilogy. It is expected to be released in mid-2022. You can visit her website at [dianamcdonough.com](http://dianamcdonough.com), sign up for her blog and visit her Facebook pages for both books. Her books are available through Amazon and local bookstores in Maryland and Delaware. We hope to have her books available for purchase and possibly autographing during her time at our convention.



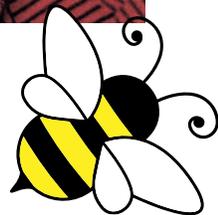
*Saturday's Luncheon Speaker,  
Diana McDonough*

Our musical entertainment for Saturday night's procession and dinner will be familiar, The Bill Edwards Trio, who has done the same for us at several past conventions.

Our keynote speaker Saturday evening will be Rosemary M. Thomas, Ed.D., who is well known to most of us. She is a West Virginia clubwoman as is her mother, Mary Jo. In fact, Rosemary is a third generation clubwoman! She is also a Maryland clubwoman, a member of the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster. She is presently the Executive Vice-President of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV. She is a nationally recognized speaker and workshop leader on board relations, volunteer management, fundraising and marketing strategies. Her focus on leadership development remains a key aspect of her life's work with leaders of all ages and from all walks of life. She will be talking to us about "Inner Leadership".



*Saturday's Keynote Speaker,  
Rosemary M. Thomas*



# Bylaws

There have been no proposed amendments to the Maryland Federation Bylaws. Pursuant to Article XVII of our Bylaws, any such proposed amendments should have been received by me by February 1, 2022, to be considered.

Again, I encourage all districts and clubs that have not already done so to make amendments to their bylaws similar to our Federation's, Article XVIII, Emergencies, to provide for the conducting of business while not being able to meet in person. Any district or club that has not provided for lawfully conducting business by such means by amending its bylaws can have called into question any actions which they have taken during this time. I know that several districts and clubs have made these amendments and I have received copies of their amended bylaws.

I want to remind all districts and clubs that any amended bylaws must be submitted to me as MD Bylaws Chairman in accordance with Article XIV, Section 3, to make sure that the bylaws of any member district or club of the Federation are in accordance with and do not conflict with those of the MD Federation.

Thank you.

Cynthia Ann Dykes, Chairman  
Bylaws Committee 2020-2022  
Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs

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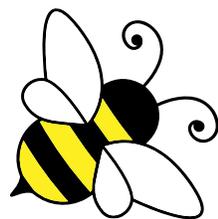
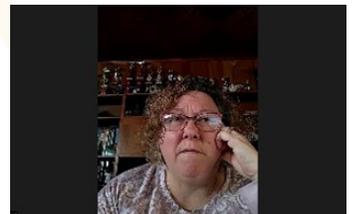
## Nominations for State Officers

Nominations for state officers to be voted on at convention, are as follows:

<b>President</b> _____	Cynthia Dykes
<b>President elect</b> _____	Andrea Lilly
<b>Vice President</b> _____	Deborah White
<b>Recording Secretary</b> _____	Diane Hill
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> _____	Jeanne Pam
<b>Treasurer</b> _____	Susan Krichten

# Mid-Winter Rally Report

The members of GFWC Maryland Juniors and guests gathered via zoom on a very, very cold day. The host club for this meeting was the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Pocomoke. We had a wonderful meeting celebrating a day of friendship, fun and service. The theme for the day was "Chill & Serve". We took count of who wore red, hearts, snowflakes, pajamas and federation attire. We held a business meeting, had reports from the Junior Special Projects chairman and the GFWC Signature Program chairman. A tissue paper flower craft was presented and a challenge made to all the clubs to write Valentines and make paper flowers for a local nursing home and deliver on Valentine's Day. The fundraising chairman presented our fundraisers. A special guest speaker was the local highschool's 2021 HOBY recipient and she gave a wonderful talk on her HOBY experience and future plans. The Leadership Chairman presented an "Inner Leadership Challenge" focusing on ourselves as leaders. Prizes were given to the club with the most members attending. We had a guest speaker from the local library's Youth Program, which was one of the service projects we adopted. Donations were collected for the local library, local schools and a high school's free warehouse closet for students. A zoom scavenger hunt, using the letters of the word HEART was conducted and a prize awarded to the winner. Officers were elected for the 2022-2024 administration. A reminder of the upcoming Junior Fun night "Paint & Sip" on April 8th at the State Convention was issued. What another amazing successful day for all involved even though virtual. This meeting was well attended and a pleasure to conduct.



# 2022-2024 GFWC MD Directory Form

## Attention Club Presidents

Use this form for Reporting 2022-2024 Club Officers. The new 2022-2024 GFWC-MD Directory will be prepared using the information you supply. If your club has Co-Presidents /or Co-officers, or an Advisory or Director, please include that information on another sheet or on the back of this form. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda at 410-251-6798 or bbben360@aol.com

Please fill out this form and mail by June 10, 2022 to:

Brenda Bennett  
Directory Chairman  
2109 Bypass Road  
Pocomoke City MD 21851  
Phone: 410-251-6798

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### Please type or print clearly

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Organized: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Federation: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Meeting Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Club President

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Club Vice President

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Recording Secretary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Corresponding Secretary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Treasurer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fundraising

## Don't Miss A Chance to Win & Shop!

I was so disappointed that we were not able to meet for our February State Meeting In-Person. However, you all are champions at shopping to assist in our Fundraising Efforts! So, I am asking you to keep saving your pennies (do we still have them?) and your dollars so you can **spend, spend, spend** at our upcoming State Convention in April! It is so exciting that we will be able to join with our Federation Sisters to share our club experiences and catch up on each other's lives! I have missed the comradery of being with our club members after our only in-person meeting in two years last September at Holly Hills for our Board Meeting! For some reason that seems like a lifetime ago!

Our State Convention promises to be an exciting event for all the attendees. Our vendors will adorn our adjacent 'selling room' with many goodies for you to chose from. We will certainly enjoy spending money on our outstanding and creative District Baskets that also includes a Junior Basket. Your dollars won't last too long with the 50/50 Boards!

Night Owl Bingo will not disappoint our participants with wonderful prizes and an opportunity to enjoy each other's company! Of course, you will have the opportunity to display your skills playing Bingo (no skill involved, just luck) and answering some trivia questions!! Make sure you sign up to join in the merriment!

If all this excitement is not enough for you, just hold on! Can you believe that just for signing up to come to convention you will get a chance to win a cash prize (well maybe it will be in the form of a check)? Every registered participant at our convention will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a first-place cash award of \$200, a second-place cash award of \$100, or a third place cash award of \$50 just for coming and having a "Heck of Good Time"! You will certainly have an opportunity to purchase additional chances for these Cash Prizes that will be awarded during our convention. So don't miss out on a chance to win a jackpot and shop to your heart's content.

Warmly,

Christy Swiger  
Fundraising Chair



# Tree-Mendous Maryland

## A Tremendous Start

Tree-Mendous Maryland's goal is to help Maryland residents have access to affordable trees to place on their public lands. With permission from land owners, volunteers (your club) can plant trees at schools, in state and community parks, local open space, street trees and more. Tree-Mendous is currently working with American Native Plants located in Middle River, MD. in Baltimore County. Plant a tree today to clean your air, clean your water and beautify your home town.

Think Spring! Give the Gift of Trees.

Please complete the form below and send a copy of your check to the Tremendous Maryland chairperson for State and District Reports.

Thanks-you,  
Peggy Burton Ols  
Tremendous Maryland Chair  
8509 Goshen View Drive  
Laytonsville, MD 20882

### Give the Gift of Trees

- Enclose \$40 for each tree you would like planted.
- A beautiful certificate announcing your gift will be mailed to the recipient in your name.
- All trees will be planted on public land in Maryland. Groves of ten or more trees will be planted together.
- For more information, call (410) 260-8510
- Make your check payable to Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Send to: Tree-Mendous Maryland  
Gift of Trees  
Tawes State Office Building E-1  
Annapolis, MD 21401

[www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/tremendous/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/tremendous/default.aspx)

Use your VISA or Mastercard to order online.

Certificate in Memory of (name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Certificate in honor/celebration of (name/event):

\_\_\_\_\_

Send certificate to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip:

\_\_\_\_\_

Gift from (name):

\_\_\_\_\_

# Membership



As we welcome Spring, let's look for ways to increase our awareness in the communities that we serve. Sharing our accomplishments helps to tell our "why" it also opens the doors and hearts for other women to fulfill their "why."

In addition to posting on social media, invite reporters from your local cable, town/city/county representatives, newspapers, and HOA newsletters to attend your event to provide media coverage and to share with their audiences. Partner with other non-profits, small businesses, board of trades, community centers, adopt a day-care, school, before and after care or a senior center.

Wear your GFWC pin and other apparel with your local or national emblems. These will spark conversations while you're out in public and provide an opportunity for an invitation to your next meeting and/or event. Fundraisers at local restaurants, Amazon Smile and on-line merchants shared with your community helps to raise funds for your philanthropic efforts and specifically share what the funds will be used for. Have fun, stay safe and share your "why"! Look for opportunities to march in local parades, have a booth at a fair or festival or hold a yard sale.

Also remember to check the valuable [GFWC Membership website](#) for other great suggestions and ideas. We want to celebrate you during Convention, please send anniversaries to Denise Redmond at [denise.redmond@LNF.com](mailto:denise.redmond@LNF.com).



# Leadership

We will soon be at the start of a new administration with some new leaders at the helm. I would urge all leaders to be open and listen to the views of our membership as a whole. Leaders should create an atmosphere to help others develop their leadership potential. This involves education and involvement of all club members in a variety of roles so as many as possible get leadership experience. A true leader helps others realize their own potential and does not simply tell members what to do but helps them realize and learn what needs to be accomplished to move our Federation forward in a positive and upward direction. Leaders foster others!

Cynthia Ann Dykes,  
Leadership Chairman

---

# Save the Bay

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those clubs that have already sent me their donation for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for 2021, and 2022! It is not too late to send me your checks to support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in its efforts to restore our greatest natural resource, The Chesapeake Bay. Our 38 years of making donations well over the amount of \$115,000 to the Foundation is resulting in some improvement regarding the health of the Bay!

Please make your checks out to: "The Chesapeake Bay Foundation" and mail your checks to me at:

Christy Swiger  
117 Comanche Circle  
Millsboro, DE 19966

I will immediately forward your contribution to our foundation and you will receive mailings with important updates and information about the Bay. So do not delay! Get your contributions in the mail to me soon so that you can be recognized at our upcoming convention in April. Thank you for your longstanding support of the Bay!

Warmly,

Christy Swiger  
Save the Bay Chair

# Parliamentary

# Procedure

## How to Handle a Motion

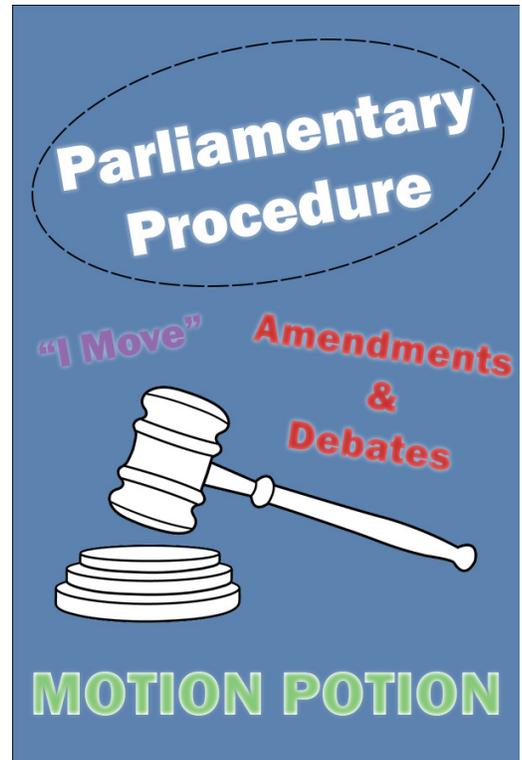
Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules for conduct at meetings. It allows everyone to be heard and make decisions without confusions. How do members get their say? They make motions! A motion is a proposal that the group assembled take action on an issue.

Members can:

- Make a proposal (motion)
- Express support for discussion of the motion (second the motion)
- Give opinions on the motion (debate motion)
- Make a decision (vote on the motion.)

How a motion is made:

- A motion is made by stating “I move that (*state motion*).”
- Another member will say “I second the motion.”
- The chair states the motion by saying “It is moved and seconded that (*restate motion*).”
- After that, the chair will ask for discussion
- Then the chair will ask for a vote by restating the wording of the motion. Then the vote is taken.
- If there is an amendment, the amendment must be voted on first, and then the original motion voted on as amended.



# Maryland President's Signature Project: Military Families

It has been an exciting and productive two years implementing the President's Special Project, "Supporting Active Duty Military and their Families, Women Service Members, and Veterans." The creative energy in individual clubs has brought many projects forward to assist both past and current military members adapt to challenges in their lives.

Success in any service project is defined as helping others succeed. Helping with an honest desire to give a hand up, not a hand out. Encouraging success of the individual, and understanding our role in supporting others. We have done this for the last two years, and have clearly supported service members with various needs, whether currently serving or after leaving active service.

We started small with easy projects such as collecting baby shower gifts or school supplies and sending items overseas to service members who did not have access to obtain simple needed items. We assisted multiple VA Centers and clinics and supported new organizations coming on line to help veterans transition out of the service and into civilian life. A small tutorial demonstrated how to interact with USOs around the world. Then we

evolved to support legislative action to support change in how the military addressed harassment and assault of female service members.

The last service project of this administration will be to collect items needed for the Purple Heart Service Foundation, and to bring items to this year's GFWC Convention on April 9-10 (Jr Fun Night April 8th). When you donate your new and gently used items to the Purple Heart Service Foundation, local thrift shops sell them in their stores and donate the revenue back to the Purple Heart Service Foundation so they may provide valuable services and resources for veterans across the country.

A list of acceptable donations are as follows:

- Clothing & shoes
- Kitchen and Household items no larger than a breadbox
- Games
- Toys
- Books
- Electronics
- CDs, DVDs, and videos
- Record albums
- Sporting goods

# Maryland President's Signature Project: Military Families

Collected donations will be delivered after convention to a local residence for a scheduled pick-up.

A huge Thank You to Andrea Lilly, Director of Jr Clubs, for guiding us in this project. What a wonderful way to help others and do some spring cleaning at the same time!

In the beginning, we knew this special project would be a success, because we all have family members and friends who have served in the military or are currently serving. Additionally, our nation has evolved and learned to separate the service member from the politics.

Military service makes families for those who have no family. Why do we talk about the military as a family? A brotherhood? As individuals either enlist or accept commissions into military service, they move to another location and develop new family circles. Shared experiences, danger, even trauma bond service members together as close as family. I helped a soldier move from reserve to active duty because he was homeless. As he left for active duty,

he told me his family did not take care of him, but the Army did. The Army was his family.

The military prides itself in values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Those who have served always take their hats off at baseball games when the colors are presented, salute the flag, attend funerals for Veterans who have no family to attend. We stand up when it counts.

GFWC MD stands up for Veterans. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this project.

In federation friendship,

Carol Feser

P.S. Copy/paste this link into your browser for an inspiring and patriotic performance: [military.com/video/air-force-teams-lee-greenwood-patriotic-god-bless-usa-performance](https://www.military.com/video/air-force-teams-lee-greenwood-patriotic-god-bless-usa-performance)



# GFWC Signature Project: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness

There are many types of abuse. We most frequently think of abuse of children or women in a family environment.

## **Child Abuse:**

Always be alert to early signs of child abuse. Children who cry incessantly, suffer fatigue, emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence. may exhibit signs of depression, heart disease, and diabetes. They struggle to form healthy relationships.

What can you do?

Volunteers are needed for reading groups, donating clothing, or toys Giving to children can help with their low self esteem and makes them feel loved. Have fund raising events to help make the lives of children better. Such as building playgrounds, purchasing TV or good videos for children.

## **Elder Abuse:**

This abuse can cause early death or disease. Signs

of abuse are bruises, cuts, nervousness or anxiety.

What can you do?

You visit regularly and listen to what the elder says. If you are told about abusive behavior, take action to insure the safety of the elder person. See the administrator, or the RN in charge and file a complaint. Move the elder person to another facility if you suspect abuse. Be sure to take respite breaks. If you are a caregiver. Ask relatives to help out so you can get a break. Use day care facilities if possible. Have a medical doctor check the elder person periodically.

## **Intimate Partner Violence:**

This includes husbands, boyfriends or family incestuous relationships.

What can you do?

Recognize the symptoms such as nervousness, anxiety, bruises, cuts, fearfulness. Give the Abused the National Violence Hotline phone number.

# GFWC Signature Project: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness

Display this number at every meeting. 800 799 SAFE (2233). Give it to your Doctors office for anyone he feels needs help. Volunteer at local shelters.

## **Teen Dating:**

One in five high school girls report physical or sexual abuse by a dating partner.

What can you do?

Talk to your Teens. Know who there with and where they are going. Know where their friends are living and their phone numbers. Assure they have a phone. Be sure they know their phone number.

## **Human Trafficking:**

Sex trafficking is the most prolific form of human trafficking. Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act of any type induced by force. Over 82 Countries had trafficked people in 2020. The US Took the lead to establish a 3 tiered program to prohibit, prosecute and protect human beings from bondage

through out the globe. The International Hotline is 866 373 7888. Included in this category is Involuntary Organ Donations. Some young men and women are captured to provide a market for kidneys, eyes, hearts, etc.

What can you do?

Display your Hotlines numbers at your meetings. Teach your children and grandchildren their names and addresses. They need to be able to reach you if rescued or if they escape. This is an evil crime. Write to the Secretary of State to emphasize the importance of punishing the evil people who practice sexual slavery.



# Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children

With spring just around the corner get your club members together to brainstorm project ideas to support Advocates for Children. Consider doing a one and done project at a spring club meeting. Here are some project ideas from GFWC State Directors of Junior clubs .

Did you know that GFWC Maryland Junior Director Andrea Lilly selected environmental awareness for her 2020-2022 Administration focus and chose O.W.L.S – Outdoors Where Leadership Soars as her theme? Taking care of the environment is near and dear to Andrea's heart because her dad was a state park ranger for 30 years. She grew up visiting state parks – even lived on one for 10 years. This experience, along with her overall love of the outdoors, is what inspired her Administration theme.

Andrea has strived to promote projects that will improve conservation and reward clubs for their leadership roles in helping the environment. The goals she emphasized to Maryland Clubs included energy conservation, following the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, and supporting state parks, with a special emphasis on planting trees and protecting animal habitats. Consider a project to support Andrea's theme. Roll up your sleeves and pick a date for your club members to clean up a

park or playground. You can wear masks and work together while keeping 6 feet apart and get the job done.

Plant seeds in little cups and containers at home or at your club meeting. Then take the little cups to a local shelter or after school program to have the children continue to water them and encourage them to start a garden and plant them outside this spring.

How about supporting one of our GFWC Affiliate Organization projects and register to participate in the March of Dimes' March for Babies: A Mother of Movement. Members can lead a team of members and walk together either remotely or in person to raise money for healthy moms and strong babies.

With preterm birth and maternal death rates continuing to rise, the U.S. remains among the most dangerous of the developed nations for having a child, especially for women and babies of color. By joining March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement you're lifting up communities, creating connections, and taking action to make the U.S. a more equitable place. Be part of this movement for change and ensure that every mom and baby is healthy!

# Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children

Support Foster Care by asking club members to collect gently used or new suitcases, duffel bags, backpacks, and toiletry bags to donate to social service offices for foster children. This project will give children a way to transport their belongings in a bag of their own.

Consider the Kicks for Kids project from the Florida Juniors. In some low-income families, children must worry about going to school in shoes that don't fit or make them feel like they don't fit in. These children may hesitate to raise their hands in the classroom or have trouble concentrating due to feeling uncomfortable. Without proper footwear, children can suffer emotionally, physically, and academically. Teachers report an increase in attendance and in physical activity when low-income students receive new shoes.

Clubs are invited to participate in Kicks for Kids and provide children with new shoes to help increase their self-confidence, concentration, and overall chance of academic success. Education unlocks the door to freedom and allows children to break the cycle of poverty. By promoting their academic success in this manner, we can help open that door.

Members can work with local schools, daycares,

Boys & Girls Clubs, children's homes, foster organizations, shelters, or identify other families in need. A Club put together a Christmas tree with shoe ornaments that had a child's first name and shoe size listed. Community members selected an ornament and then purchased shoes for the child. Can your club switch up this idea using an egg tree with Easter eggs with shoe sizes in them for people to purchase?

Remember there are many children and families with food insecurity and many more people have been affected since the pandemic. Have club members collect food items or collect monetary donations to support shelters, school pantry programs or a local food bank.

Remember to work with your club members, be giraffes and stick your necks out with creative and fun projects that will support and advocate for our children.



# The Maryland Clubwoman



## Clubwoman Connection

GFWC Maryland Convention

April 9-10, 2022