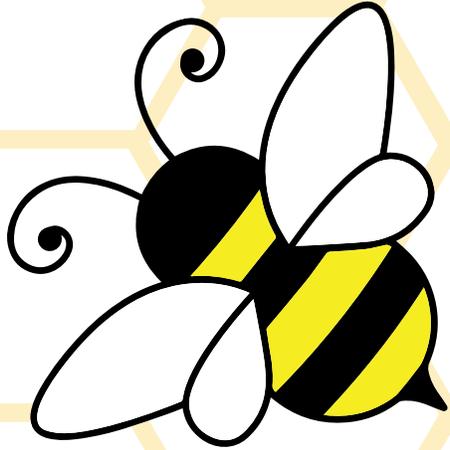


# The Maryland Clubwoman



Bee Active...

Keep our Federation Buzzing

# The Maryland Clubwoman Staff

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*The Maryland Clubwoman* is published by The GFWC Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs three times per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring).

The Maryland Clubwoman will now be emailed to any member with an email address on file. Email Mikki Stratmeyer, Corresponding Secretary at MicheleStratmeyer@Comcast.net 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 2021 issue of *The Maryland Clubwoman* must be turned in to staff by November 5, 2021t

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.

# Contact Information

ALL District Presidents, Club Presidents, Program and Special Committee Chairmen  
Please forward any changes to your address, phone number(s) and email to:

Diane Hill, Corresponding Secretary  
16201 Bond Mill Rd  
Laurel, MD 20707  
Email: gfwcmdcorrespondence@gmail.com

It is very important that each board member has a current email address on file with the corresponding secretary.

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# From The President's Desk



Hello Maryland Clubwomen,

Now with the threat of the resurgence of a new variant of the virus, all of us must be beginning to all feel like the hurrying March Hare in “Alice in Wonderland”. We all have so much to do and so little time. We may think that we have little time before we are caught up in restrictions imposed on our lives again. Yet federation members did not think this way last year. When the reports of our Maryland Federation clubs are read, one sees that during the months when all of us were almost housebound, the clubs successfully accomplished so much: Schools were given supplies, children’s books were donated, baby needs were met, and food banks were supported. Those suffering any kind of Domestic Abuse were helped by the generosity of club members, and donations were made to groups helping veterans. The GFWC partners charitable outreaches met the physical needs of people in the United States and in foreign countries and our members supported them with financial donations. Congressional legislation was proposed that would meet the goals of our federation, and received the written or verbal support of members. The creativity of club fundraising methods was varied and successful with masks and bulbs sold, items sold at Zoom meetings, gathered funds as well as at protected in-person events.

All the Maryland Federation members should rejoice as every club accomplished outstanding charitable work. Now, we have entered another fiscal year. Club presidents have committees working to fulfill projects that they have supported yearly, and some new projects may be planned. Perhaps the projects supported in the past will be revitalized with new techniques of implementation. New projects may be planned that would meet the needs of our fellow citizens as created by the pandemic of the past year. Please keep records of your project’s implementation -- what, why, who, when, how -- all these phases. If a monthly record of these is kept then the report of the work will almost write itself.

Maryland clubwomen, you are not like the March Hare. You have shown that when there is much to do, you do it. You have shown that when time is a factor in meeting needs, you find it. You are all Queen Bees! You keep our Maryland Federation, our hive, humming with your work. Please keep going, your work does make a difference. Every effort is a win for when one is joined with another then anything can be done.

In Federation Friendship,

*Karen-Marie Wasik*

GFWC Maryland President, 2020-2022



# From Your Junior Director

Dear Federation Sisters,

Happy Fall! Or, as they say in the south, “Happy Fall y’all”. My, how the summer has flown right by and a new school year is about to begin. As we anticipate the winter months, I certainly hope the Holidays and season brings wonderful things and new beginnings. As things are opening back up, I am cautiously optimistic. Planning has been a bit of a challenge with some meetings in person and some virtual and yes, we are still all in this together and we will persevere and do what’s best for all. I hope you will join me in the excitement of a new year and my second and final year of this administration. We are beginning a new club year full of opportunities to work in our communities and partner with others to help those in need.

Our convention was a success this year even though it was held virtually, and our International Convention just concluded in Atlanta, GA. I am still amazed at all the things we were still able to accomplish and am truly thankful for all the friendship and support that I have received from so many. Our Junior Fall Conference will be held on October 16, 2021, in Cumberland Maryland at the Ali Ghan Country Club. Cumberland Juniors will be hosting and we will have a very informative, fun meeting and also take care of business and help get ready for SER.

As volunteers, we are the backbones of our communities. I am so proud of the new ways we have found to help out in our communities. While remembering that the environment is important, we kept our focus on the Juniors special project – Advocates for Children and the GFWC Signature Program – Human Trafficking & Abuse, along with whatever we could do to help out. As we continue to work through COVID, I believe that we will still grow strong maybe not in ways we are used to but in different ways; and as your Junior Director I will work hard to promote Education, Health Issues, Leadership, Conservation, Advocate for children, prevent abuse and help local communities thrive. You are all inspiring women and I am so thankful for all the friendship and support I have been shown. One of my favorite things to receive and to do is “Pay it Forward”. I am hoping we can all pay it forward. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve the Maryland Juniors.

In Federation Friendship,

GFWC Maryland Junior Director, 2020-2022



**NEXT**

# 2021 Maryland Convention

The GFWC-Maryland Convention was held virtually on April 17, 2021. The meeting was hosted by The Montgomery County District and called to order by Karen-Marie Wasik, GFWC-Maryland President. Jean Tumarello, GFWC Civic Club of Oakland, Maryland, Inc., gave The Thought For The Day. President Wasik and Andrea Lilly, GFWC-Maryland Director of Junior Clubs, greeted and welcomed the membership to the Federation of Women's Club, Inc. Annual Convention. The Executive Committee and Junior Officers were then introduced by President Wasik and Junior Director Lilly, respectively. After that, we heard from Credentials Chairman Julie Gibbs about convention credentials, Recording Secretary Diane Hill about Convention Rules and Programs, and Recording Secretary Deborah White about the minutes of the February Board of Directors Meeting which were referred to the Executive Committee for approval.

Then, Recording Secretary White reported on that the minutes of the April Board of Directors meeting will be referred to the Executive Committee for approval, and gave a report on Executive Committee Activities spanning October 5, 2020 - April 17, 2021. Treasurer Anita Becker then gave a report on budget status documents for the current fiscal year and Finance Committee Chairman Janet Morgan presented the GFWC Maryland 2021-2022 Proposed Budget. President Wasik and Junior Director Lilly then presented their respective annual reports to the membership, which led to a clever, poetic adaptation of a popular holiday poem: "Twas the Night Before Convention" by the Maryland Federation Officers.

Afterwards, reporting resumed with Credential Chairman Julie Gibbs (on behalf of Rosemary Slacum, GFWC Maryland Chairman of the Outstanding Clubwoman Award) announced that Anne Yakaitis, GFWC-Linthicum, was selected for the Outstanding Clubwoman Award. LEADS Chairman Babs Condon presented candidates for the LEADS program to be held at the 2021 GFWC International Convention are as follows: the 2020 candidate is Maryland Recording Secretary Deborah White; the 2021 LEADS Candidate is Mimi DuCane, President of The Woman's Club of Bethesda and Maryland Junior Director-Elect. Tin Tin Raschid of Montgomery County District, Carol Feser of Western District, and Joyce Houpe of Chesapeake District then gave their presidents' reports and recitation of poems about the pandemic.

Afterwards, our keynote speaker, Debra Strahanoski, GFWC President-Elect, was introduced. President-Elect Strahanoski gave warm greetings from GFWC President Marian St. Clair and thanked President Wasik for inviting her to speak at the GFWC-Maryland Convention. She addressed the membership with a presentation on the power of speech and noted four keywords: power, passion, pride, and perseverance.

Following Deb's speech, reports resumed with Maryland Vice-President and Dean of Chairmen Mary Snyder introducing of the Community Service and Special Project Chairmen for their reports. Then,

# 2021 Maryland Convention

Maryland Bettie M. Sippel Memorial Fund Chairman Mary Lou Hodges reported that 13 out of 27 clubs donated a total of \$390.00 in honor of past members. Contributions this year are less than what has been received in the past. Districts are encouraged to consider this in their budgets for next year. Next, Maryland Records Chairman Barbra Weldon reported that administration records from 1988-1990, and 2006-20212, and 2016-2018 have been archived.

Chairman Weldon reported that updates on the Guide for the Records Committee were submitted to the Handbook Committee and Maryland Directory Chairman Brenda Bennett reported that updates on the Handbook have been completed. After that, Dottie Gregg , GFWC-Maryland Website Chairman and Honorary President, reminded chairmen to send pictures for the website and for the clubs to send in their \$10.00 fee to Anita Becker, GFWC-Maryland Treasurer. Honorary presidents were presented for the terms spanning 1998-2020 and President Wasik, in the absence of Marge Shiflett, Chairman, presented the report about the Signature Program, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness.

Cynthia Dykes, GFWC-Maryland President-Elect, presented the GFWC video about the StarFish Project and gave an overview of the project. Then, Denise Redmond, GFWC-Maryland Membership Chairman, reported the clubs who celebrated memorable anniversaries and those celebrating 50 years as members of our Maryland Federation. Afterwards, President Wasik presented the recipients of the 2021 “Honey Bee” Awards to Mary Ellen Stevens, President of the Silver Spring Woman’s Club, and to Lou Harrell of The Woman’s Club of Bethesda, Inc. and GFWC Woman’s Club of Chevy Chase, Inc. She thanked them for their dedication and hard work within their local clubs as well as within the Federation.

Terry Blank, GFWC Woman’s Chevy Chase Club, Inc. and Chairman of President’s Special Project for the Summer, presented a lively skit, “ Buzzing for Bees”, encouraging members of all Federation Clubs to plant a Bee Garden. Then, Christy Swiger, Fundraising Chairman, reported that raffle packets will soon be sent to each of the GFWC-Maryland Club presidents for membership distribution. Next, Julie Gibbs, GFWC-Maryland Credentials Chairman presented the final credentials and Babs Condon, LEADS Chairman, encouraged members to share their favorite convention stories.

Brenda Bennett, GFWC Maryland Meetings and Convention Chairman announced the Convention Committee, which included President Wasik, Junior Director Lilly, and Meeting and Convention Chairman Brenda Bennett.

In closing, Chairman Bennett led the membership in The Collect For Clubwomen and made some announcements regarding upcoming meetings. President Wasik then ended the meeting, including thanking Susan Krichten for acting as convention mascot.



# Outstanding Maryland Clubwoman

Outstanding Clubwoman of the Year, Anne Yakaitis, joined the GFWC Woman's Club of Linthicum Heights, Inc., in 1976. The first activity she attended was a May Fair and the President said " Enjoy the day because after this you'll be working for the club." Little did Anne know how true that comment would be or how much it would mean to her. Anne has served as club Secretary, First and Second Vice Presidents, and President. She has also chaired many club activities and committees, her favorites being the Prayer Breakfast, the Gala Auction, and the Education and Youth Art Committees. In the '80's she served as chairman of the MFWC Literature and Drama and Youth Art Committees. In the '90's Anne co-chaired the MFWC Education Special Projects Committee. Anne is currently the Vice President of the Chesapeake District, and First Vice President and Finance Chair of her club. However, one of her greatest joys has been to represent the MFWC on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Leadership Youth Foundation, (HOBY), a position she held from 1992 – 2019. Another fond project was helping to provide the entertainment for Maryland State Night at the 2016 GFWC National Convention that was held in Baltimore.



"I never imagined how much club work would become a part of my life. As a young mother, the club meetings were a wonderful way for me to connect to my community and our speakers have taught me so much about life and the world around me. And, of course, I have met so many wonderful people – in my club and around the state. As the years go by, my appreciation for all the accomplishments of the GFWC, MFWC, and my club grows. I am truly humbled and honored to be recognized by the MFWC."

Anne was born and raised in Baltimore City and completed her B.S. and M.Ed. degrees at what is now Towson University. She taught Middle School Social Studies in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties for 24 years and served as Department Chair. In addition, in cooperation with Goucher College, Anne was responsible for the PDS program for student interns at her school. She is married, has three outstanding children and six precious grandchildren.

# Junior Day 2021

The members of GFWC Maryland Juniors held a fun night live Facebook sale called “Books & Bargain Mania” on April 16th. It was hosted by Babs Condon & Rosemary Thomas along with other Westminster Juniors. What a fun successful night. We supported literacy along with boosting our fundraising budget. We had so many nice items and support from several states. This is an event that will be repeated and that we are grateful to have held. We raised over \$1500 and had so much fun.

On April 17th the GFWC Maryland Juniors and guests gathered via Zoom on what was a beautiful sunny day. Although most of us attended the MFWC General’s morning session, the afternoon was dedicated to the Juniors.

We started with Officer Reports and presented a balanced budget. The Babs Condon, Outstanding Junior and Rookie of the Year Awards were then presented. A special presentation on Leadership was given by Rosemary Thomas. After that, she helped present the OWL’s (Outdoors Where Leadership Soars) Awards. We had reports on the GFWC Junior Special Project – Advocates for Children, and the GFWC Signature Program – Human Trafficking & Abuse; after which we made pinwheels in support of child abuse which is always recognized during the month of April. We had reports from Club Presidents and updated everyone on our Fundraising efforts and introduced items for sale.

What another amazing successful Junior day for all involved, even though virtual. The support is always amazing. Thanks to all the clubwomen who contributed and who attended.

**NEXT**



# Junior Fall Conference

Mark your calendars for October 16, 2021. We would like to extend the invitation to all Maryland Clubwomen for the Juniors' Fall Meeting. This meeting will be hosted by our very own GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Cumberland. The meeting will start at approximately 10:00 am and finish around 2:30. Lunch and registration fees will be announced in the Call to be sent out in September.

Junior Fall Conference will be held at Ali Ghan Country Club in Cumberland, Maryland. The address is as follows:

Ali Ghan Country Club  
13100 Ali Ghan Rd NE  
Cumberland, MD 21502

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## Honey Bee Awards

All of our Maryland clubs have members who are always working in committees, fundraisers, chairmanships, club events. They are the members who do so many little jobs that the sum total of their work is often not recognized. They are the backbone of our clubs. They are the always there workers, the willing hand, the mentor, the "right hand" to all members needing assistance.

Dottie Gregg, MFWC Past President, saw this need and began her "Red Shoe Awards" to show appreciation for these members. Agreeing with her decision, I have given out the first "Honey Bee Awards" of my administration to Lou Harrell and Mary Ellen Stevens. It is my intention to continue these awards. All Maryland Clubwomen involved in the activities of their club deserve recognition. They are the "Queen Bees" of the Maryland Federation. These awards are an effort to give recognition to those who have for many years been so involved.

# Tree-Mendous Maryland Give the Gift of Trees

**Trees in Celebration:** Commemorate life's moments such as birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions by planting trees in honor of your loved ones.

**Trees in Memory:** Remember a loved one who has passed on with a lasting tribute.

**Trees for Pets:** Honor a special pet in your life, a beloved companion.

No matter the occasion, a tree fits the gift. Make your check of \$40.00 payable to Maryland Department of Natural Resources, noting MFWC in the memo. Report in Conservation as one of the GFWC Grand Initiatives.

Send to:

Tree-Mendous Maryland  
Tawes State Office Building, E-1  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mail a copy to:

Julie Gibbs  
P O Box 419  
Ocean City, MD 21843

## Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY)

Again, this year's Maryland HOBY Seminar was virtual and was held June 10 – 13. Over 140 sophomores from across the state joined in from their homes. Before the seminar, each Ambassador received a packet of supplies and materials along with a HOBY T-Shirt that all wore on Saturday. Each day was focused on a particular type of leadership – Friday, Personal Leadership, Saturday, Group Leadership and Sunday, Social Responsibility. There were large group presentations with breakout groups for discussions. Ambassadors were allowed one hour for lunch and one hour for dinner. Sandy Queen (HOBY local favorite) ended the Seminar with her heart warming motivational talk. Everything was handled by a remote staff beautifully. Hopefully, next year they will be able to hold their Seminar in person at Towson University. Thanks to the 10 clubs who sponsored schools this year. Your support is greatly appreciated. Fees remain the same - \$225 Registration Fee or \$395 for a full Sponsorship. Please make your checks payable to Maryland Leadership Youth Foundation or HOBY Maryland. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

Send donations to: Anne  
Yakaitis, 7802 Cypress Landing  
Rd., Severn, MD 21144



**NEXT**

# 2021 International Convention



The theme of the convention was “Celebrating Culture, Cultivating Connections”. Your state president was joined by Babs Condon, Reno Eitel, Dottie Gregg, Andrea Lilly, TinTin Nu Rashid, Deborah White, forming the voting delegation from Maryland Federation.



On Friday Deb White, our 2020 LEADS candidate attended the all-day LEADS program and will report on it at the September Board of Directors meeting, September 21. Sadly, Mimi Ducane our 2021 candidate could not attend due to airline cancellations. The rest of the delegation attended a luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors. During the afternoon meeting all state and international officers were officially installed. The dinner banquet, “Gateway to the World Celebration” gave our delegation the ability to gather in-person and enjoy sharing the tales of our pandemic experiences. Sisterhood at its best!



We were tempted by the array of beautiful goods offered by vendors and had multiple opportunities to participate in raffles. Some of us succumbed to these temptations. Adding to our pleasure, GFWC distributed to each attendee an insulated a drink bottle, cell phone rest, and insulated carryall.



We had the opportunity to go out to a restaurant to try Atlanta’s cuisine and really enjoyed Fried Green Tomatoes, chocolate pecan pie. As one of the pictures shows, free time gave us the opportunity



# 2021 International Convention

of meeting and enjoy sharing the day's activities. Gorgeous hotel, 47 floor atrium, with many places and free time to gather for such entertaining times. The Maryland Federation won first place in its category for its splendid participation in The "Run for the Roses" Capital Campaign fundraiser. Great support was given by our membership. The speaker was John T. Broderick, former Chief Justice, New Hampshire Supreme Court who spoke about the need for help for those suffering Mental Health issues. He illustrated this need by sharing the story of his son's struggle as he tried to manage his anxiety and depression with no help available. It was quite moving and has inspired all of us to gain support for this critical problem. The afternoon session was for the distribution of awards and the beginning of voting on proposed changes to the GFWC Resolutions.

I am proud to announce that the GFWC Women's Club of Westminster, Inc. received Honorable mention in the Civic Engagement category. The Junior Awards Banquet, "Give Kids the World" was held and the Maryland Juniors won FIRST PLACE in their category for their work in the Junior's Special Program: Advocates for Children. The Millie Crom Award which is given to Junior Directors for outstanding achievement having, the highest level for this award, platinum level, was awarded to our Andrea Lilly. Hurrah for Andrea!

The Fun Night hosted by the GFWC Junior Board

found attendees bubbling with frivolity, laughter, memorable sights and delightful, unforgettable memories. Sunday was a learning morning as Affiliate Organizations held workshops followed by GFWC Program Workshops. Region luncheons, we are Southeastern Region, were held. Andrea with her Beaver theme and Karen- Marie with her Bee theme, presented reports on the club achievements of 2020 and the future work begun by our clubs. Later they presented an amusing, fun invitation to attend the SER Conference to be held at the Rocky Gap Casino and Resort October 28-31. (How can it not be fun and also entertaining? Games, delicious food, Costumes, a lake to stroll by, entertaining meetings and remember it has a casino, Come join in the fun!) Then we had another business session finishing the Resolution changes followed by an awards presentation. At the "Wonders of the World Gala Banquet GFWC Maryland received a sixth-place award for Signature Program Fundraising Achievement won by the GFWC Joppatowne Woman's Club. The speaker was Jane Jenkins Herlong who by playing selections of well-known songs which she sang along with, applied the messages contained therein to qualities the Federation members should seek while doing their philanthropic work. It must be mentioned that Dottie Gregg worked continuously as one of the 6 GFWC members who registered and checked credentials of all 635 attendees. She deserves our thanks for representing our state working on this monumental task.

# GFWC LEADS Report

Deborah White, 2020 LEADS Graduate



# GFWC LEADS Report

**Deborah White, 2020 LEADS Graduate**

As a candidate from MFWC, I attended and received my Certificate of Completion on August 27, 2021, after completing the GFWC Leadership Education And Development Seminar. The program began with emphasis on the use of the GFWC “Leadership Tool Kit”. The Tool Kit of resources consists of three sections “ Leadership Development is personal Development”, “Leadership Development of Members” and “Club, District and State Leader Resources” and can be found at the GFWC membership portal.

The speakers for each category of the Seminar were clear, concise and knowledgeable on each topic. Each speaker encouraged feed- back and questions from the attendees and urged each of us to offer our thoughts and to share our experiences to the group.

We learned what our strongest skill sets were and how to improve those that were identified as our weakest and how to recognize strong skill sets within our membership. Encouraging member involvement was stressed. Ways to build confidence within ourselves and to build confidence in others was encouraged. Techniques for Building

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills and how to effectively read Body Language in others as well as ourselves was taught. We were coached in the “do’s and don’ts” of Conflict Resolution, learning that Listening was a key factor in dealing with this. Parliamentary tips, Protocol and Resolutions shared were educational and constructive. In addition, and most importantly, we learned the importance of Time Management and how critical it is in our daily lives.

It would be impossible to report on each and every facet of the Seminar in detail. There was so much to absorb in eight hours as the topics were many and varied. I have a better understanding of the resources offered through the GFWC “Leadership Tool Kit” and the Seminar Booklet and I plan to make use of all the tools available. In addition to all the knowledge acquired, I met and interacted with many talented women from across the country. I look forward to seeing them again in the future and renewing our friendships.

Deborah White, MFWC  
GFWC LEADS Graduate 2020

# Official Call to the September Board of Directors' Meeting

- DATE:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021
- TIME:** 10:30 a.m. - Call to Order
- PLACE:** Holly Hills Country Club  
5502 Musseter Road  
Ijamsville, MD  
301-694-8322
- REGISTRATION:** 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ALL club members are invited and everyone attending must register.
- REGISTRATION COST:** The registration fee for **this event only** has been waived.
- RESERVATIONS:** The reservation deadline is September 10th. Luncheon reservations (\$35/ person) can be sent to the Reservations Chairman and checks can be made out to **MFWC Reservation Account**. Reservations Chairman:  
Susan Krichten  
1641 Exeter Road  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-259-3402  
sdkrichten@gmail.com
- MENU:** Light breakfast of muffins with whipped butter, coffee, hot tea, and water. Lunch of an autumn salad with an entree choice of grilled vegetable tower, teriyaki salmon, or asiago chicken. All entrees come with a mixed vegetable medley and chef's choice of starch. Dessert is a lemon raspberry torte.
- RECESS:** 11:45 a.m.
- LUNCH:** 12:00 p.m.
- PROGRAM:** We will hear from Danny Farrar, Co-Founder of the Platoon Veteran Services Center of Frederick, MD.
- SERVICE PROJECT:** Last call for baby shower gifts for military mothers. School supplies will be collected for children and donated along with the baby shower gifts to the Fort Meade Spouses' Club. All types of school supplies will be accepted.
- ADJOURNMENT:** Approximately 2:00 p.m.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please note that meeting organizers are keeping a close eye on the pandemic and will shift this meeting to a virtual platform if it is felt that a virtual platform would be in the best interest of clubwomen health and safety. Anyone wishing to make an announcement at a Board meeting should contact President Wasik in advance of the meeting.
- FUNDRAISING:** Christy Swiger, Fundraising Chairman, will have lots for you to buy!
- HOTELS:** Hampton Inn Frederick: 301-698-2500      Hilton Garden Inn: 240-566-1500  
Fairfield Inn & Suites: 301-631-2000      Comfort Inn: 301-668-7272

# Registration Form

Please use this form to make reservations for the GFWC-MD Board of Directors Meeting on September 21, 2021. Reservations must include check(s) with names of members included in the reservation. No refunds will be given. NO food substitutions will be made except for Allergies, Vegetarian or Diabetic. Arrangements not made with Reservations Chairman in advance CANNOT be honored. Please Note: The following information is necessary for proper seating and name badges. Please print clearly and fill out completely:

Luncheon Reservations are \$35.00 (including tax & gratuity)

Make check(s) payable to: MFWC Reservation Acct

Mail to: Susan Krichten, Reservations Chairman

1641 Exeter Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Entree Choice (please indicate using this abbreviation for each registrant):

Grilled Vegetable Tower: GVT Teriyaki Salmon: TS Chicken Asiago (Gluten-free): CA

**Reservations Deadline: Must be postmarked NO LATER than September 10, 2021**

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*Members attending who hold positions on the GFWC-MD Board of Directors (State Officers, District & Club Presidents, State Chairmen & Committee Members, Honorary State Presidents):*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree: \_\_\_\_\_

*Members attending who do not hold positions on the GFWC-MD Board of Directors:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District/Club Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Entree: \_\_\_\_\_

# Directions to the September Board of Directors' Meeting

## **FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.:**

I-270 North to Route 80 East (Urbana, exit #26). At the end of the ramp take a LEFT at the light and proceed on Route 80 East. At light (Route 355), proceed STRAIGHT on Route 80 East. In about 2 miles, turn LEFT onto Ijamsville Road (hidden entrance). Follow for about 1 mile. After you cross over a narrow bridge, bear to the RIGHT onto Mussetter Road where you will cross over railroad tracks. Holly Hills entrance approximately 2 miles on the LEFT. Proceed straight and around the curve to the clubhouse entrance. Turn LEFT onto the driveway and up the hill to the clubhouse.

## **FROM FREDERICK:**

Route 70 East (towards Baltimore) to Route 144 (Patrick Street, Exit #56). Turn LEFT at light onto Route 144 East. Follow for about 3 miles and turn RIGHT onto Ijamsville Road. Make the first LEFT onto Ritchie Way and the next RIGHT onto Ritchie Drive. Follow this around to the Holly Hills clubhouse entrance. Turn RIGHT onto the driveway and up the hill to the clubhouse.

## **FROM BALTIMORE:**

Route 70 West to Route 75 North (Hyattstown/Libertytown, Exit #62). At stop sign, bear RIGHT onto Route 75 North. At light, take a LEFT onto Route 144 West (Old National Pike) into New Market. Go through New Market for approximately 3 miles. Look for Dynamic Automotive on the left, which is immediately before Mussetter Road. Take a LEFT onto Mussetter Road. Cross over I-70 and take a RIGHT into the Holly Hills entrance. Proceed straight and around the curve to the clubhouse entrance. Turn LEFT onto the driveway and up the hill to the clubhouse.

# Southeastern Region Annual Conference

Hello Federation Sisters! And welcome to the Future... where clubwomen meet in person, enjoy time together, support one another and yes – SHOP at vendor tables. As you probably have heard, GFWC Maryland will be hosting the 2021 Southeastern Region Annual Conference and there is no doubt it will be FABULOUS in every way possible. Rosemary Thomas and I are honored to be co-chairing this event and welcome all help, creativity, and enthusiasm from across the state of Maryland. Many of you signed up to be a part of our team back in February. Thank you! Mark your calendars, plan your costumes because you know we will have some trick or treating, and bring along some good luck for some time in the casino. October 28-31 are the dates to save and we will need your help in the months leading up to that time. We have selected Rocky Gap Casino Resort for the conference. Located in Flintstone, Maryland this unique lakefront venue offers:

- AAA Four-Diamond Award Winning Hotel
- 24-Hour Casino
- 10,000+ square feet of meeting space
- Full-service Spa
- Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course
- Four restaurants and lounges in addition to their award winning catering

Traditionally, SER conference includes tours of the area – planned and executed by the host state. We have a little different twist to offer this time, since we will find ourselves in such a fabulous setting that is undeniably a bit off the beaten path. We have shown our GFWC Sisters the Best of Baltimore and the Awesomeness of Annapolis, but now we will head for the hills of Western Maryland. We hope everyone will feel it is a respite along a road less traveled. We will call our special kick-off event (the tour on Thursday afternoon) the Maryland Magical Mystery Tour which will be an opportunity to bring the finest of our fair state to them. This Federation-style stay-cation, stay-still-tour... will take place on the grounds and in the facilities of Rocky Gap State Park and Resort. No buses, no traveling off site, no box lunches for us. It will however include lots of FUN, FEDERATION and FRIENDS!

We have a special hotel rate of \$119 per night (plus resort, park and state taxes), complimentary valet parking, free internet connection, and discounts on many amenities - if our attendance and participation reaches the levels we anticipate. This location is a gem in our state and provides easy region travel for many of our GFWC SER Sisters. We have always gone above and beyond when serving as hosts for GFWC events...and we know this one will be no different. You will hear more during our September Board of Directors meeting and just prior to that, we will contact everyone who has signed up to ask which committee you would like to work on.



# The Official GFWC Maryland Website

## Sign-up/Renew for 2021-2022!

[www.gfwcmd.org](http://www.gfwcmd.org) is the official website of The GFWC Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. Anyone with an Internet connection—at home, at work or at their local library—can access information about The Maryland Federation just by going to [www.gfwcmd.org](http://www.gfwcmd.org). Our website includes information on upcoming meetings, districts, clubs, as well as GFWC community service programs and advancements, and it will be kept up-to-date by our State Webmaster Trey Lee. Use this valuable tool to gain new members for your club!

Now is the time to RENEW and update your club listing for \$10.00. Now is also the time to SIGN-UP for a NEW club listing for \$10.00 and join us online!

Each club has its own personal web page which includes a calendar of all your meetings and events for September 2021 through August 2022. Your page can also include photos. Each club page is directly linked to, and accessible from, the rest of the GFWC Maryland website. When submitting content for the website, please name your files and photos as “Club Name\_Event(Newsletter)\_Date(mm-dd-yy)” so we can keep all of our files organized! Feel free to e-mail Trey with any comments or questions about our state website at [gfwcmdweb@gmail.com](mailto:gfwcmdweb@gmail.com). GFWC Maryland also

has its own Facebook Page! Find us on Facebook by searching “GFWC Maryland Federation” or visit us directly: [www.facebook.com/gfwcmd/](http://www.facebook.com/gfwcmd/). Clubs are welcome to post their events and photos to this page, and we will highlight content from our GFWC Maryland Website. Contact Susan Krichten at [sdkrichten@gmail.com](mailto:sdkrichten@gmail.com) with questions.

To join us for the new club year, mail or email (preferred) the form on the next page to the GFWC-MD Webmaster and make your check payable to the GFWC Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs and mail to:

Anita Becker  
GFWC-MD Treasurer  
1601 Delvale Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21222

**\$10.00 to RENEW a club listing**  
**\$10.00 for a NEW club listing**

# 2021-2022 Webpage Sign-Up

Renew a club listing - \$10

New Club Listing - \$10

Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Email for Club Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please include the date, time, and location for each club meeting and/or special event you have scheduled for September 2021 - August 2022. Also include any programs scheduled, if applicable.*

September: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

October: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

November: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

December: \_\_\_\_\_

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January: \_\_\_\_\_

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February: \_\_\_\_\_

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March: \_\_\_\_\_

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April: \_\_\_\_\_

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May: \_\_\_\_\_

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June: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

July: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

August: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Western District Report

**The GFWC Junior Woman's Civic Club of Cumberland Inc.** cleaned up the gardens around the Family Crisis Resource Center in Cumberland which had been neglected since before COVID. Due to the heat, they worked in 2-hour sessions weeding 1 section at a time for 3 sessions, planting Dianthus bought with the \$30 gift card from the State Juniors and 1 session to mulch, plant and water some hardy perennials from our home gardens; currently Pachysandra and Hosta. The objective is a no or low maintenance garden, since they get full sun. The club will continue to share some of the plants from members gardens as the summer goes into fall, anticipating flowers and fewer weeds next year. Although they are a small club, all six members participated.

**Frederick Woman's Civic Club, Inc.** focused on raising and donating funds to local non-profits. In the spring of 2021, thanks to a generous donation to the club from the family foundation of a member, they distributed over \$8,000.00 to a number of community non-profits that serve a cross-section of the community. They conducted a successful geranium sale in April and this Fall hope to expand their annual pansy sale to include pumpkins, chrysanthemums, and other fall favorites. They are selling White House Christmas ornaments again. This year's ornament honors Lyndon Baines Johnson. They collected items for the Kline Hospice House, including toilet paper, baby wipes, tissues, kitchen trash bags, and personal products. In April, they delivered a large collection

of Dr. Seuss books and other materials to the Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County. They plan to continue monthly collections for local non-profit organizations. They awarded two \$1,000.00 scholarships to local students. A member worked collaboratively in the community to create an interpretative lesson plan for fourth grade students visiting a local historic site. This member, with the Steiner House Garden Committee, has planted an historic herb garden at Steiner House and plans to create coloring sheets for local children who may visit. Plans also include working with a local Girl Scout to create a pollinator garden at Steiner House. In support of Veterans and their families' members made 20 blankets for pregnant Veteran wives and provided bottled water to the Ft. Detrick VA Clinic. They delivered Valentine treats to residents at Montevue Assisted Living, a local care facility. Beginning in October 2021, they plan to resume their bimonthly Bingo program there.

**GFWC Civic Club of Oakland Maryland, Inc.** held an Anything and Everything Goes event in May. They rented the Farmers Market downtown Oakland and charged vendors a small fee for a space. They raised enough to provide three scholarships to Garrett College, two for academic students, \$500 each, and one \$1,000 scholarship for workforce development. The club also donated \$1,000 to Garrett Regional Medical Center. The club continues to support the Treasure Chest, a small shop within the Lighthouse where clients can do their personal shopping while learning to

# Western District Report

manage their money and begin making financial decisions on their own. Civic Club members donate almost all items for sale in the shop, including jewelry, CDs, DVDs, hand knitted hats and scarves, hand soap, etc. Plans are underway for the 48th annual Antique Show and Makers Market sponsored by the Civic Club of Oakland to be held in conjunction with Garrett County's Autumn Glory Festival October 15 through October 17, 2021. The event will include antique dealers, makers, a cafe featuring our beloved beef vegetable soup, and a 50/50 raffle. The show will be located at the old Armory building on N. 8th Street in Oakland. They are partnering with five other women's groups in Garrett County for a celebration of Women's Equality Day on August 28, 2021, in honor of passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. The club will offer baked goods and its Then and Now cookbook for sale. They will have a jigsaw puzzle of women important in the suffragist movement for people to add pieces to and an explanation of who they are and their contributions.

**The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster, Inc.** is planning on the following activities to start their new year: assisting with the Food Drive for Carroll Food Sunday, preparing Christmas Stocking for Shepherds Staff, assembling baskets of food for local police department and thank you packs for military recruiters and baskets for hospital heroes and adopting a family at the local domestic shelter. They will prepare the 70th

anniversary celebration for their club.

**GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster, Inc.** focused on CSP activities and completed projects such as: Education - filled 12 Easter baskets to Shepherd Staff for needy children and are ordering backpacks and school supplies for them, Environment – collected 388 pairs of shoes for Souls4 soles and Gardening members took care of the flower garden at Belle Groove Square, Westminster. The Civic and Outreach CSP donated 375 pounds of food to Carroll County Food Sunday, for Children in Transition donated a two-night stay in hotel and laundry service, donated and shipped 108 children's dresses made by club members, and for Health and Wellness provided lunch for volunteers as they set up the new Restore for Habitat for Humanity. In the Arts they set up an art exhibit of local artist work. They held an End of year picnic in May, recognizing club ladies and card had a making activity. They gave \$2,000 to both Carroll Community College and McDaniel College scholarship funds. In the fall they will celebrate the club's 110-year anniversary.

As you can see, COVID has not stopped these clubs in the Western District from doing their usual stellar jobs in the community. In many cases clubs became innovative and worked in new ways to serve these communities. These clubs deserve high praise and appreciation for all they have done.



# Leadership

It is that time in the cycle of a GFWC administration to start thinking about the future and those that could possibly meet future needs by assuming leadership positions. This happens at all levels of GFWC, International, State, District and Club so nominating officers are of particular importance in this ongoing process.

If you are asked to be a nominating chairman or committee member, please consider assuming this responsibility. After all, someone already in a leadership position is asking you to do this job so they obviously consider you qualified for the job of helping to ensure our future as an organization.

If one of these nominating members asks you to consider serving in a position for the upcoming administration, remember that they are already in a leadership position and are confident that you can do so as well. In other words, just say yes when asked to serve as a leader.

Someone thinks you are capable or they would not be asking for your service.

You will find it rewarding and a lot of fun. Plus, you get a chance to expand yourself while doing good for others. Just say yes when asked!

# Fundraising

## Shopping Opportunities Galore

Clubwomen across the State have all remarked about how tough it has been to not be together during these challenging times. However, I know what is foremost on their minds! It's how much they have missed all the shopping opportunities that they have been craving for what seems like years! Well, we can solve that dilemma easily at our upcoming State Board of Directors meeting on September 21, 2021. I know that you all cannot wait another minute until you get to feast your eyes on our fundraising experiences that we will be able to offer you! All you need to do is bring your cash, or checks and visit the raffles, 50/50 boards and products we will have for you to peruse! I am excited to share with you many new products from some of my favorite crafters! I can't wait for you to see the new suncatchers, oyster shell trinket holders, and oyster shell manger scenes! My predicament is how to bring enough products to not sell out!!! Many other surprises will adorn our tables. So, grab your shopping shoes and wallet and register to attend our first in-person meeting since February of 2019 and be the first to purchase chances and goods from the fundraising tables! Christmas will be only a mere thirteen weeks from our wonderful gathering!



# Parliamentary Notes

## It's Just Not Proper...

1. Repeatedly banging on the gavel.  
To open a meeting, the presiding officer gives one rap (tap) of the gavel and says "The meeting is now in order" or "The meeting will come to order."
2. "Turning the meeting over to..."  
The presiding officer is always in charge of the meeting. Someone, such as the program chairman, may be introduced (or presented, depending on their association with the group) who later "concludes the program," so the presiding officer may adjourn the meeting.
3. "I so move." "I move you that."  
The correct form of making a motion is to "I move that..." or "I move to..." "I so move" is meaningless and "I move you that" is either a card playing term or an attempt to physically move the presiding offer.
4. Accepting the treasurer's report.  
It is neither accepted or adopted. After an opportunity for questions about the report, it is "placed on file." If it is "placed on file for audit" there must be an audit.
5. The secretary reading the minutes of the "last" meeting.  
The "last" meeting is the final meeting of a group as it dissolves. The proper term is "previous" meeting.
6. LONG Introductions.  
The person introducing the speaker is not "the speaker." The introduction should include the title and purpose of the talk, if any. The speaker's name is given at the end of the short introduction.

## Rules To Live By At Meeting

1. The rules of Parliamentary Law are based on a regard for the rights of the majority, the minority, the individual, the absentee and all of these together.
2. Have an open mind.
3. A meeting should be business-like but not stuffy.
4. Parliamentary procedure is a tool, not a weapon.
5. Members and officers shouldn't insist that parliamentary procedure be followed "to the letter" just for the sake of form.
6. If you don't stick your neck out during the meeting, don't stick your tongue out afterwards.
7. Justice for all and partiality to none.
8. Courtesy to all from all.
9. A bad rule is better than no rule at all. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
10. Remember the Golden Rule.
11. A model meeting: participated in by everybody; monopolized by nobody; where everybody is somebody.

# Dues & Donations

Attention Club Treasurers: 2021-2022 Club Membership Dues are due by December 1, 2021. Dues remain the same as last year:

General Clubs	\$20.50/member
Junior Clubs	\$20.50/member
Juniorette Clubs	\$15.50/member

Please use the GFWC MD Club Treasurer Payment Form (download at [www.gfwcmd.org](http://www.gfwcmd.org)) to submit your dues. The same GFWC MD Club Treasurer Payment Form should also be used to submit the following donations. These are the only donations made through the State Treasurer:

- The Maryland Clubwoman Magazine
- Youth Art Fund of MFWC
- Outstanding Maryland Clubwoman
- Bettie M. Sippel Memorial Endowment Fund

Make checks payable to: GFWC Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.  
Mail to: Anita Becker, 1601 Delvale Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222

For recognition at the 2022 Annual Maryland State Convention, donations must be received at least 3 weeks prior to the convention.

## The following donations should be sent directly to the GFWC MD Chairman:

### Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Make checks payable to:  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Mail to: Christy Swiger, 117 Comanche Circle,  
Millsboro, DE 19966

### Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY)

Make checks payable to: Maryland Leadership  
Seminar Foundation  
Mail to: Anne Yakaitis, 7802 Cypress Landing  
Road, Severn, MD 21144

## The following donations should be sent directly to the Organization:

### CARE

Make checks payable to: CARE  
Mail to: 151 Ellis Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303-  
2440

### Tree-Mendous Maryland

Make checks payable to: Maryland Department of  
Natural Resources  
Mail to: Tree-Mendous Maryland, Tawes State  
Office Bldg., E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Mail COPY to: Peggy Burton Ols, 8509 Goshen  
View Drive, Laytonville, MD 20882



# GFWC Signature Program

## Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness

There are many types of abuse. We most frequently think of abuse of children or women in a family environment. While that is a frequent place for domestic and sexual violence to occur, it is far more pervasive. Perhaps we should compartmentalize the types of violence and abuse so we can better understand who is abused and what are the situations where abuse is prevalent.

**ELDER ABUSE:** At some point in our lives we may find ourselves dependent on others for care. Elder Abuse can lead to an early death and lasting harm physical and psychological to the abused. It can cause devastating financial loss and more. Sometimes the victim thinks the abuse is his or her fault. Adult protective service agencies can suggest support groups and counseling for the abused and the Caregiver. Caring for an older adult can be long term and stressful. Caregivers must have time to rest and take care of your needs. Ask a friend, or family member for help. Counties, Churches, Synagogues and your private physician may recommend a social worker to assist you. Visit the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center for assistance with finding respite services in your area. The Veterans Affairs Office offers a multitude of

options for care of disabled veterans and caregiving support groups may also help.

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:** Advocating and bringing awareness about Intimate Partner Violence can be in many forms. Utilize qualified Public Speakers, submitting articles in the club newsletter and supporting shelters in the community. One thing that should be publicized is the National Domestic Violence Hotline which is 1-800-799-SAFE(7233). Having that number easily visible at your next event may help save someone from an intimate partner violence relationship.

**CHILD ABUSE:** Toxic stress can occur when a child experiences ongoing and frequent adversity, including physical or emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence. Children who experience toxic stress may develop chronic health conditions, such as depressions, heart disease and diabetes. They may also struggle to form healthy and stable relationships. Volunteering for local shelters, donating clothing, or raising funds for professional shelters help.

**TEEN DATING:** One in eleven youth reports being a victim of physical dating abuse. One in five

# GFWC Signature Program

## Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness

high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner. Only 33% of Teens in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse. Talk to your Teens so they will be aware of the existence of sexual abuse in a dating environment.

**MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT:** The Department of Defense estimated almost 21,000 service members were sexually assaulted in 2018. Despite repeated efforts to end sexual harassment and sexual assault in the military, it is still on the rise. On April 29, 2021, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was joined by 63 other senator sponsors, survivors and military sexual assault advocates introduced Senate Bill 1520 intended to reform the disposition of charges and convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the uniform code of Military Justice and increase the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

**CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT:** Campus sexual assault impacts not only the survivors, but also the parents, friends, and family members they rely on for support. The survivors may find themselves having feelings of anger, disbelief, pain, sadness

and helplessness after being assaulted. They often leave college and lose the tuition spent for their education. Secondary survivors need to be supportive and encourage the survivors to talk and seek the help of a mental health profession.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN:** Tillie Black Bear gave hope and healing to generations of Native Women. Tillie Stressed the importance of tribal cultures, stories and traditions to address violence in our communities. The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center is asking for your help to declare October 1 as "Tillie Black Bear Women are Sacred Day."

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Sex trafficking is the most prolific form of human trafficking. Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act of any type which is induced by force, fraud or coercion to a person who has not attained 18 years of age. Over 25 million people in 82 countries were trafficked in 2020. The US took the lead to establish a 3-tiered program to prohibit, prosecute, and protect human beings from bondage throughout the globe. Hotline: 888-373-7888. Together we can help.



# Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children



As we kick off fall and clubs are back in full swing working on projects, put your thinking caps on and brainstorm with your club members projects you can do to support and be advocates for children. The pandemic is still impacting our world. There are many families struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families. Consider back to basics with having a theme each month for your club meeting and encourage club members to collect items to bring to meetings to donate to programs that support children. Consider these ideas:

- Back to school club night with back-to-school supplies
- Art club night with art supplies including thick markers and larger crayons to donate to a special needs class
- Book club night and bring new and gently used books to donate to a school classroom, a shelter, or start a reading library for children at a laundromat
- Girls on the run club night and collect gift cards to buy sneakers for the girls
- Children's costume club night and collect new and gently used Halloween costumes to donate to a shelter or a

low-income elementary school

- Give thanks club night and collect food items to replenish a food insecurity program or a weekend backpack food program at a local elementary school
- Keeping warm club night and collect hats, mittens, socks, jackets, and sweatshirts for a head start program or shelter or local school for the holidays

Be creative and come up with some great theme nights and collect things to support children in your community. Connect with GFWC Affiliate Organizations. Undertake these and other projects with the GFWC Affiliate Organizations that fit within the guidelines for the Juniors Special Program Advocates for Children:

- March of Dimes - participate in a virtual walk for the March for Babies.
- Operation Smile help support surgeries with necessary equipment and medications to enable the delivery of the safest surgeries.
- PCAA Prevent Child Abuse America by hosting your own pinwheel garden and pinwheel activities.



# Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital participate in person or a virtual walk/run September 25,2021 to fundraise to help cure childhood cancer.
- United Nations Shot at Life Campaign by promoting World Immunization Week.

Save the date for Advocates for Children Week October Sunday October 24 to Saturday October 30,2021

GFWC Juniors' Special Program Advocates for Children initiated a challenge for clubs to stick their neck out by undertaking a service project that directly benefits children during GFWC Advocates for Children week. Complete the Giraffe Award application form which can be found in the GFWC membership portal. The Giraffe Award will be presented at the Junior Business Session of the GFWC Annual Convention in 2022 to honor all State Federations that participate in the challenge project. An award certificate will be provided to each club that undertakes a project directly benefiting children during the fourth week of October.

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.

## **COVID Restrictions on the Bay?**

Absolutely NONE! With all the uncertainty in our world today, our greatest natural resource, The Chesapeake Bay, is pleased to remind all of us that you may relish all the joys of being on this beautiful body of water with no pandemic restrictions. In fact, our Bay is in "all its' glory" with more people enjoying its glistening waters and tributaries than ever before. Greater numbers of visitors have spent more leisure time enjoying the Bay. Even more reason for our clubs to continue their objective of restoring this magnificent resource! Please consider donating to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation this year, especially if it has been absent from your giving budget. Any donation amount will be appreciated. Make your check out to the "Chesapeake Bay Foundation" and please mail it to me, Christy Swiger, at:

117 Comanche Circle  
Millsboro, DE 19966

# GFWC Maryland Signature Project

## Active Military, Veterans, and Families

This past year concluded a year-long effort to support a baby shower for military families at Ft Meade, Maryland. Initially stymied by collection challenges for baby gifts as we social distance, this turned into a successful delivery of gifts to the Ft Meade Spouses Club and illustrated the success of our Districts to coordinate gift collections in their home districts. Baby gifts were collected, shipped, and hand delivered between clubs. Two clubs hand made a total of 25 knit, crochet, or quilted baby blankets. The Ft Meade Spouses Club organized baby gift baskets and delivered the baskets to doorsteps of military mothers. What resiliency, determination, and kindness shown to new military moms staying safe at home.

Many clubs found such generous ways to support military, their families, and veterans. We provided supplies to a USO overseas, as well as grocery coupons to Military families in Okinawa, water to the Ft Detrick VA Clinic for patients, holiday cards to deployed service members, collected school supplies for military schoolchildren at Ft Meade, and packed boxes of personal care items and snacks to send overseas. We honored our military by supporting Wreaths Across America both financially, and by laying wreaths at multiple military cemeteries.

An ongoing initiative is support for the Platoon Veteran Services Center, scheduled for opening in November 2021. This organization will be available to serve all veterans throughout Maryland. This is an organization started by two military veterans, who recognized a need in Maryland for an agency to coordinate and serve as a link between veterans and government agencies.



The Platoon Veteran Service Center will partner with Goodwill in a new complex. The center will include job training and placement help,

# GFWC Maryland Signature Project

## Active Military, Veterans, and Families

counseling, mental and physical health assistance, transportation services, financial education, and help with benefits and housing. A huge challenge in helping veterans is providing proper case management, and the veterans center will have lots of resources in one place. Frederick is strategically located between large Veterans Affairs facilities in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Martinsburg, West Virginia, allowing the new center to offer veterans a full range of services.

Another way to continue support to military members who are deployed is available through the ongoing efforts of the Red Cross. It is a true saying, “Where there are military men and women, there is the Red Cross”. As the military landscape has changed, it appears that the USO in Erbil is not showing a “need list” in Amazon. But military servicemembers do not only need items when they are in harm’s way. Service members away from home, family, friends, church still rely on the Red Cross for a friendly face, connectivity with family members, a place to relax when off duty.

To connect to a USO, do the following:

1. Search [uso.org/locations](http://uso.org/locations)
2. Select a Region (United States, Europe, Pacific

3. Pick a USO. ( I picked United States/Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport USO Lounge as a test).

This gives contact info, mailing address, amenities at this location.

This is a little how-to, so clubs can connect directly with a USO somewhere, if a family member or family of a club member is at a location, how nice to support the USO there. The same creativity and determination we used to hold a baby shower can be focused on helping a USO Center supporting our men and women far from home.



# The Maryland Clubwoman



## Clubwoman Connection

<b>September Board of Directors' Meeting</b>	<b>September 21, 2021</b>
<b>Junior Fall Conference</b>	<b>October 16, 2021</b>
<b>Chesapeake District Meeting</b>	<b>October 20, 2021</b>
<i>Cafe Mezzanotte, Severna Park</i>	
<b>Southeastern Region Conference</b>	<b>October 28-31, 2021</b>
<b>Dues and Donations Deadline</b>	<b>December 1, 2021</b>