

**The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.**

**Press Release**

**Contact Mary Lou Poirier**

**gloupoirier@gmail.com** **or 410-871-9102**

**October 17, 2015, GFWC Maryland Federation of Women’s Clubs, Inc. Western District meets in Westminster.**

 The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. hosted The GFWC Maryland Federation of Woman’s Clubs, Inc. Western District meeting on October 17, 2015, at Maggie’s restaurant in Westminster. In addition to members of the Westminster Club, the business meeting and luncheon was attended by club women from GFWC Centennial Club of Western District (which consist of Western District Past Presidents - all belong to their local clubs); GFWC Civic Club of Oakland, Maryland, Inc.; Frederick Woman's Civic Club, Inc; GFWC Junior Woman's Civic Club of Cumberland, Inc.; GFWC Western Maryland Community Club; GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster, Inc.; and GFWC Wicomico Woman's Club, Inc. Guest speaker at the afternoon session was Bryan Shumaker, STEM coordinator for Carroll County Public Schools. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Shumaker said that STEM education teaches students critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork in those areas and hopes to inspire their interest in seeking careers in STEM fields. He described the county’s programs to incorporate STEM’s goals into the schools curriculum. Shumaker’s enthusiasm for his topic prompted discussion and questions from the clubwomen. Some of them showed an interest in volunteering to help at STEM school or club events. A Carroll County website states that STEM education in Maryland began with a 2007 study called Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future, which showed a need for the U.S. to bolster competitiveness in the areas of science and technology.

Both the GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. and its parent organization, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, have a more than 100-year history of dedication to community improvement through volunteer service.  Since its founding in 1890 the GFWC has championed the rights of women and children and other important community programs.  The Westminster Club partners with local organizations to work towards those same goals.  For more information contact Mary Lou Poirier at gloupoirier@gmail.com. Visit our website at [www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster\_womans.html](http://www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster_womans.html).

