

# FLORIDA CLUBWOMAN



GFWC FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 2016

FLORIDA CLUBWOMAN

## From the Desk of the President

As you read this message, I hope you can reflect back on a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous 2015. I have received copies of your reports and read every one of them. Our clubs certainly have been extremely busy. Thank you for making such an impact in your communities during 2015.



times. Only the Junior members can vote for Juniors, but Junior members can vote for the Women's Club candidates as well. I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Convention in May. It will be the "GFWC Florida's Best of Show" weekend starring you, the members!

*Carol Weaver*

My logo "One Shoe can Change your Life, Four Paws can make a Difference" has indeed impacted my life. You, the members have shown me what commitment really is as you rallied around my President's Project. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. There will be two more Dog Fests in Florida, one in Fort Lauderdale on February 20 and one in Panama City, April 16. Thank you to the ladies for stepping up and hosting these dog fests and helping to obtain my goal. You are GFWC Florida's "BEST of SHOW."

Our GFWC FL Spring Convention, May 20-23, 2016 is almost around the corner. It's an exciting time in the life of our federation as we end one administration and start a new one at the convention. Please check out in this issue those who will be running for election. Voting polls for Junior and Women's club members will be open on Saturday morning, May 21. Please check the call for

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### IMPORTANT 2016 UPCOMING DATES

April 24	GFWC Federation Day
May 20-23	GFWC FL State Convention, Orlando, FL
June 16-18	JASM, Lakeland, FL
June 22-29	GFWC International Convention, Baltimore, Maryland
July 22-24	2016 Summer Planning, Gainesville, FL
September 9-11	GFWC FL Fall Board, Orlando, FL
October 20-23	GFWC Southern Region, Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, Jacksonville, FL
November 2016	Annual District Tour

2014-2016 GFWC Florida President's Project



# An Open Letter to Every Club Member

Dear Club Member,

Thanks to your club for taking the time to submit your 2016 dues to [GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs](#). Your payment insures that you continue as a member in the General Federation of Women's Clubs and GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. As members of these two organizations, your clubs are also part of a vast network of support pursued on behalf of your members. With your membership you automatically support programs in:

- [Canine Companions for Independence](#) (2014-16 President's Project)
- [Hacienda Girls Ranch](#) (2016-2018 President's Project)
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [Boggy Creek](#)
- [HOBY](#) (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Foundation)
- [Sew Much Comfort](#)
- [GFWC Florida Scholarships](#)
- [One Voice for Children](#)

On the national level, your membership connects you to our outstanding Partnership program and you are automatically involved with the following outstanding projects:

- Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention
  - \*[Success for Survivors](#) Scholarship Programs
  - \*[Prevent Child Abuse America](#)
- [The Nature Generation](#)
- [ESO](#) (Epsilon Sigma Omicron)
- [Easter Seals](#)
- [The Heart Truth](#) (Women's Heart Health)
- [Inside Knowledge](#) (Women's gynecologic issues)

- [Heifer International](#)
- [Operation Smile](#)
- [United Nations Foundation, Shot @ Life](#)
- [UNICEF \(United States Fund\)](#)
- [Kettering Foundation](#)
- [Sew Much Comfort](#)
- [USO](#)

For more details on the above organizations, you can find information in the GFWC Club Manual ([www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)) or by going to each individual web site.

All of the above programs are supported by your membership in GFWC and the General Federation of Women's Clubs continues to look for organizations that fit with the ideals and concepts that involve support of women and children's issues.

The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in 1895 and joined GFWC the same year. Those early clubs were the source of pride as we celebrated 120 years of Community Service in 2015. From the book [Leading the Way: A Century of Service](#), by Jessie Hamm Meyer, the following is written:

***"Clubs organized before 1900 were mostly in towns along waterways or railroads, but even in these towns and villages the approaches to club work were as varied as the towns. When the Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs invited clubs to meet for the purpose of uniting into a federation, delegates came from Crescent City, Tarpon Springs, Fairfield of Jacksonville and Orange City. The meeting was held on the 21st day of February, 1895, in Green Cove Springs.***

***The committee for planning a federation was Mrs. E. N. Burrows, Mrs. E. V. Low and Mrs. E. G. Munsell, all of Green Cove Springs. These women had planned the meeting well and a constitution and bylaws were adopted by the delegates, Mrs. S. B. Safford of Tarpon Springs; Mrs. Emma C. Tebbetts, Crescent City; Mrs. T. L. Morse, Orange City; Mrs. L. E. Wamboldt, Fairfield; Mrs. E. A. Graves, Green Cove Springs."***

Also during the 120 year membership of GFWC Florida in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, your members were part of history making events in your community and nationally such as:

- 1898 - Child labor laws established
- 1900 - Traveling libraries established – 75% of all libraries credited to Woman's Clubs
- 1904 - The Pure Food and Drug Act
- 1916 - National Park Service created
- 1920 - Everglades National Park formed
- 1920 - Nineteenth Amendment – Right to Vote
- 1930 - Opening of Yellowstone National Park
- 1944 - Equal Rights Amendment
- 1961 - Establishment of Seat Belt laws
- 1966 - Juniorette Clubs established
- 1978 - HOBY was organized
- 1990's - American's with Disabilities Act, Family Medical Leave, Handgun Control, Libraries expanded
- 2004 - Fire Truck purchased for NYC

# An Open Letter to Every Club Member (continued)

Fire Department, replacing equipment lost as a result of the events of 9/11/2001

2008 - Bipartisan Pay Equality Bill

2015 - Expansion of the Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Bill

Whether or not members of your club actively work on projects, your mem-

bership in GFWC and GFWC Florida Federation continues to connect you to the most vital women's organization in the world. I am personally proud of my 35 year membership in GFWC and GFWC Florida and I am proud of the rich history that all Clubwomen have been part of during our 120 years of community service. If I can be of service to anyone at any time, please do

not hesitate to let me know.

In Federation Spirit ~

Mary C. Powell, President-Elect  
GFWC Florida Federation  
of Women's Clubs  
[904-261-0746](tel:904-261-0746) home  
[904-753-2196](tel:904-753-2196) cell  
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[pmsi1984@aol.com](mailto:pmsi1984@aol.com)

## From the First Vice President

Defining moments are those that are true and in your face. You make a difference in our communities every day. You give of your time, your talents and resources freely. GFWC Florida would

"GFWC FLORIDA  
WOULD NOT BE  
WHAT IT IS TODAY  
WITHOUT WOMEN  
LIKE YOU THAT CARE  
ABOUT OTHERS,  
THEIR  
NEIGHBORHOODS,  
THEIR FAMILIES AND  
FRIENDS.

not be what it is today without women like you that care about others, their neighborhoods, their families and friends.

Many opportunities are ones that involve networking with others across

our state and internationally. As a team member of GFWC Florida we are passionate and proud.

By submitting reports, you accomplish so many things. First, you are part of

history, the legacy of this organization. The projects, funds and hours are part of our archives, all that your club does is put in our history book. The one that tells the story of our efforts to serve and give back, and make a difference.

Our GFWC Florida chairmen are given the task to report back the great projects and hours to be the pages of our book. Each page describes the unselfish women that are the strength of this organization.

I would like to thank the clubs that reported to us. I know at times it is a "why;" then comes the "too much work," but in the end, the process is a great tool and is used in many presentations on volunteering and the commitment of the service we provide to others.

Your reports were great, full of exceptional stories of giving back. The volunteer hours and financial commitment was overwhelming on paper. I can only imagine the huge impact that our service has made in one club, one

neighborhood, one city, and our great GFWC Florida. Look forward to calling out club names in Orlando soon, but for now, a big hug and thanks for all you give back to others.

I have an overwhelming sense of pride to say our GFWC Florida is leading the way, and we have the best volunteers ever!

Sharon Oliphant  
First Vice President, GFWC Florida  
[solip561@aol.com](mailto:solip561@aol.com)



# Report from the Director of Junior Clubs

What an exciting time of year! Junior Club Reports are in and now it is time for our Junior Chairmen to compile, judge and write their reports. It is always amazing to see the GFWC Florida State Report with all of the Juniorette, Junior and Woman's Club statistics together!

Throughout the last few months I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to visit various Woman's Club and Junior

Club meetings and projects. Being able to see clubwomen in action in your communities is truly inspirational!

The plans are starting for our 2016 Convention on May 20-22. Knowing President **Carole Weaver** and the Junior Planning Committee, there will be plenty of opportunity for fun and laughter! Mark your calendar 'in ink' so that you won't miss the fun-filled weekend!



In Federation Service,  
Catrina Sistrunk  
[csistrunk5@gmail.com](mailto:csistrunk5@gmail.com)

## Canine Companions for Independence

There are just over 3 months to help reach President's Carole's goal for [CCI](#). What fun we have all had with puppies of all kinds! Dog Fests, club fundraisers, district fundraisers and more... What do you have planned?

One you still have a chance on is Cape Cod – tickets are available through your District President's Project Chairman, as well as at Convention in May.

**ONE FULL WEEK'S VACATION ON CAPE COD, OSTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
ANY WEEK AFTER 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY through AUGUST 30, 2016  
INCLUDES ROUND TRIP AIR FARE FOR TWO**

A few dates to remember –

**Dog Fests – in the Southeast region.**

February 20 - Ft Lauderdale

April 16 – Panama City

September 10 - Charlotte

TBD in the Fall – Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, Atlanta, Nashville

And if you remember our "F" puppies..., they are out and about learning their way in the world. Florida, Freeway, Flamingo (aka....Mingo), Ferman, Fischler, Fribble, and Fritzzy. Look at our February 1<sup>st</sup> Membership Monday for a few pictures of these incredible dogs.

Also,... joining my family the first week in February - Feyra. What an adventure!

See you all at Convention,  
Mary Taylor Jacobs  
[mtj215@gmail.com](mailto:mtj215@gmail.com)





# CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Candidate for GFWC Florida President Elect



**Sharon Oliphant** is being endorsed by the GFWC Pinellas Seminole Woman's Club for the office of GFWC Florida President Elect for the 2016-2018 term. She's been a clubwoman for 27 years,

joining GFWC Florida as a Junior in 1989.

Having been a federated clubwoman, Sharon has continually been involved and promoted GFWC in her community, State, and Internationally. As a member of the GFWC Florida Board of Directors for 22 years, Sharon has served as Club President, various GFWC Florida chairmen, Junior District Director, GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs, GFWC Florida Strategic Planning Committee, GFWC Programs Chair, GFWC Florida Presidents Project Co-Chair, GFWC Florida Treasurer, and currently serves as the

GFWC Florida First Vice President. Sharon also served on the GFWC Board of Directors for four years. While on the GFWC level, Sharon was awarded the Outstanding Junior Director.

A hard worker with a true love for the history of GFWC Florida, Sharon would like to continue to serve the dedicated volunteers that make this organization strong, impactful, and fun!

Sharon has the credentials, experience and desire to serve as the GFWC Florida President Elect.

## Candidate for GFWC Florida First Vice President



I would like to thank all of the GFWC Florida members who have so lovingly supported me for over forty years as I learned

and grew in the "Volunteer Spirit". With a short hiatus when we moved to another state, all of my experience and training and leadership skills have been developed in the Florida Federation. As a 23-year-old new member of GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club I signed up for every project sheet that was passed. I became very involved, very quickly, and I loved it! My friends from those days are my friends still.

After serving as a club president, I had the privilege of being elected as Junior District Director for District 8. From then on I was on the Junior Planning Committee, culminating with my election as Florida State Director of Junior Clubs in 1982-84, under the presidency of Lois Perkins. How fortunate was I?

I now belong to the GFWC Brandon Service League, and have served as club president and continue to stay very actively involved at the local level. My club is quite knowledgeable about Federation and with sisters, like Candy Jackson, Glenda Thurow, and Merci Hernandez, to name just a few, I have been well taught.

During this last administration, it has been my honor to serve as GFWC

Florida Second Vice President/ Membership Chairman with an outstanding EC leadership, most especially, President Carole Weaver. Membership is an emphasis area for Carole and she gave me direction and guidance. My goal as Second Vice President/Membership has been to increase communication with all clubs and members (Membership Monday, Facebook), to present a consistent theme ("***Catch the Wave of Membership***"), and to encourage an active membership recruitment and retention program in each club. I do think you all have made these goals a reality! Thanks!

**Dianne Foerster**

[dlynnfoerster@gmail.com](mailto:dlynnfoerster@gmail.com)

GFWC FL 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/  
Membership Chairman

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Second Vice President



As we begin 2016 it is vital to GFWC Florida Federation to take stock of our membership as

we plan and implement the many activities for the betterment of our communities. Each of you as a club member is a valued asset necessary for us to accomplish so much. As each club prepared year-end reports, I'm sure you were amazed at what your club has accomplished through the many activities and projects that were completed. It is evident that our collective contributions are making our communities and the world a better place. One voice

cannot be heard in a storm but working together and raising our united voices we are heard.

All clubs want new members but we also need to honor those who have led the way. The Florida General Federation of Women's Club, Inc. is not only a huge club, but it is also a "corporation." As a corporation, it requires business thinking and care to maintain our 501(c) (3) status as a non-profit. Serving as your treasurer has afforded me the opportunity to work for you in keeping this status.

I had the privilege of so many mentors in my education of GFWC Florida. One mentor, Ms. Phyllis Wood was not only a member of my club but she taught me to take time to learn and grow in federation knowledge. She encouraged me as I held the positions of

Club President, District 6 Director and then again when I sought the position of GFWC FL Treasurer. It is a source of pride to have served you in these various and challenging positions. Support from long standing club members, officers and friends have brought me to the desire to continue my service to each of you. Thus, I am seeking the position as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of GFWC Florida and ask for your support in this election. I commit to continue to work diligently for you and GFWC Florida.

Let's work together to build a bigger and stronger membership. Thank you for your support.

**Linda O'Toole**

[rotoole2@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rotoole2@cfl.rr.com)

GFWC FL Treasurer

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Treasurer

**Sara Dessureau** has served the Federation for twenty years in various positions including Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and Presidents of GFWC Cocoa Beach Woman's Club, GFWC Vero Beach Woman's Club and is now serving her third term as President of GFWC Sebastian Woman's Club. She held the position of District 10 Director 2010-2012 and is currently serving as GFWC Florida Finance Officer 2014-2016. Sara has served on the GFWC Board of Directors for 16 years.

Sara believes in service to the community, she was appointed to the Planning Commission and The Sign Revision Committee of

Cocoa Beach. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Vero Beach Theatre Guild and served as their President for two years. She continues to serve as team leader at the



Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach.

A day without learning something new is a day wasted and there has always been something new to learn from her sisters in the federation. She has been married for 44 years to her husband Edward, has one son Anthony and one grandson Nicholas who is the apple of her eye.

Sara would like to thank you in advance for your support in her quest to earn the position of GFWC Florida Treasurer.

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Recording Secretary



**Cheryl Benton** took early retirement from Exxon/Mobile Chemical Plant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2000 as a Waste Management

Center Coordinator and moved to Lutz with her husband Tom. Married 53 years this year, they have two children, Cheryl Regina Reid (a practicing Attorney in Atlanta, Georgia, and a son Todd Damon, deceased.

Cheryl then joined the GFWC Lutz Land-O'-Lakes Woman's Club. In her first year with the Club she was nominated to run for Honorary Guv'na of Lutz (a fictitious political campaign in which you can buy votes). All monies raised goes to the Community. Cheryl served as Legislative Chairman, Arts Chairman, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President from 2004 – 2006. In 2009 she was chosen the Club Woman of the Year. She was the club's nominee for the Jenny June Award in 2014. Cheryl has served as District 8 Director, District 8 Hope Chairman,

served on the GFWC Florida Juniorette Committee President's Project Co-Chairman and is currently the GFWC Florida Corresponding Secretary.

Cheryl serves as Liturgist for her church and has volunteered in the church office. She served in the Community as Co-Chairman of the Lutz Centennial Committee and is a Clerk for the Hillsborough County Board of Elections. Cheryl has enjoyed serving as GFWC Florida Corresponding Secretary and would love to serve as GFWC Florida Recording Secretary.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE JUNIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Candidate for GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs

**Kelly Holmes** was born and raised in Tallahassee, FL. She graduated from Florida State University in 1995 with a Bachelor's of Science in Risk Management/Insurance. She works for GeoVera Advantage Insurance Services as a Claims Supervisor. Kelly married her husband Rick in 2003 and gained a son, Jakub (29) and later a daughter-in-law, Kristi (30). Kelly and Rick adopted Anna Bella (4) in 2011 and are also the proud grandparents of Hunter (4). Kelly and Rick also have two dogs, Cletus and Chloe, and one cat, Lucy. Needless to say Kelly has a very busy home and work life but has always found time for GFWC.

Kelly first joined the GFWC Tallahassee Junior Woman's Club in 2003. In 2010, she helped rebuild the GFWC

University Junior Woman's Club, a struggling club of three members. Today, this club is known as the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Midtown, one of the largest junior clubs in the state with forty-seven members. In 2006, Kelly was asked if she would serve as Junior Home Life Vice Chairman for GFWC Florida for the 2006-2008 administration. Kelly was instantly hooked and returned as Public Issues Co-Chairman from 2008-2010 winning the Chairman of the Year Award in 2009. In 2010, She began her leadership on the Junior Executive Committee serving as Junior Budget Director, Junior Recording Secretary and currently as Director-Elect of Junior Clubs.

Serving at the state level of our Federation for the past ten years has been

wonderful experience.

Kelly is honored and thrilled to continue her service as the GFWC



Florida Director of Junior Clubs for the 2016-2018 administration. In addition to continuing support for our Junior Special Project partners, she has chosen to focus on the Florida Guardian Ad Litem program as her Director's project. Kelly is excited to share more information on this special project with you in May!



## Candidate for GFWC Florida Director-Elect of Junior Clubs



**Shannon Bailey** has been a proud member of GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club since 1997. In her Juniors club she has held nearly every

office, including club President in 2009, 2010 and 2016. She has served GFWC Florida Juniors on the JPC in 2010-2012 as Communications & Public Relations Co-Chair (and was named Outstanding Chair with her co-chair), in 2012-2014 as Junior Corresponding Secretary, and in 2014-2016 as Vice Director of Junior Clubs.

She is passionate about her local club and has loved learning more about GFWC and GFWC Florida, and making friends all over the state!

Shannon grew up in St. Petersburg and

is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She has been married to Edwin for nearly 22 years and they run an antiques business together. They have recently expanded their business to open an auction house in Pinellas County. This business, their 16-year old son, Trey, and church involvement keeps her busy. When not working or volunteering, she loves reading, walking endless miles with her dog, and traveling as much as she can manage.

Shannon is excited about the opportunity to serve GFWC Florida Juniors as Director-Elect of Junior Clubs.

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Vice Director of Junior Clubs



**Barbara Dolan** celebrates 20 years as a federated club woman this year. What a whirlwind of great experiences it has been for her. She is a member of the GFWC St Petersburg Junior Woman's Club. At the club level Barbara served as Social Rep at-Large, Treasurer, First Vice President, President-Elect and a four term Past President, leading her

club to two Emmy awards. Barbara went on to serve as Public Issues Chairmen for District 14, and Junior District 14 Director 2010-2012 when she was honored to win the Unity and Diversity Award.

She began her service at the state level as a member of the Junioriette Planning Committee and in most recent years served on the Junior Executive Committee as Parliamentarian 2012-2014 and is the current Junior Corresponding Secretary. Barbara believes in working hard for this Federation, leading by example with her "can do" attitude and making a difference in her community.

Barbara graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's degree in English Education. She has been married to her high school sweet-

heart, Jay, for 26 years. She has two girls Hailey (17) and Brooke (15). Both are competitive volleyball players. Barbara is known for exclaiming, "Be a rock star," from the sidelines! A statement that to her means being courageous in the face of adversity and working hard to be the best you can be. She loves being a volleyball mom. In addition, Barbara has over 20 years of management experience and is currently a Provider Relations Manager for Xerox Government Healthcare Solutions. She also loves to travel, cook and stay busy.

As Junior Vice Director, Barbara will lead the Florida Juniors by using her leadership experience, dedication to Federation and belief that by working together everyone succeeds.



## Candidate for GFWC Florida Vice Director of Junior Clubs

**Dionna Farmer** has been an outstanding member of our club for eight years, having served many chairmanship and offices, including President. She has served on the GFWC Florida Board of Directors for 5 years, serving as a club president, junior fund raising chair and currently serves the GFWC Florida Board of Directors as the Junior Leadership Chairman.

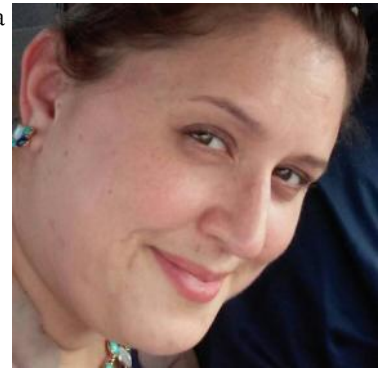
As the Junior Leadership Chairman she has been instrumental in the formation and federation of two junior clubs. She and the Woman's Club Leadership Chairman have a Facebook group page on leadership that have 531 members and reaches out to all federated club-woman with ideas and support. She has traveled and spoke or participated in

junior and general clubs projects and meetings in 9 districts and hopes to visit them all by April. By her promoting of GFWC and Leadership methods, she proves her love of the federation to all who meet her.

Besides being a member of GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club, she is a charter member of the GFWC Okeechobee Junior Woman's Club, a charter member of the GFWC Ft. Lauderdale Junior Woman's Club, a charter member of the GFWC Sebastian River Parliamentary Club, and the GFWC Sebastian Woman's Club.

Dionna is married to Royce and they have two children, Jacob and Hannah. Hannah is a Juniorette member of the GFWC Sebastian River Juniorettes.

As a strong leader she always puts others first, defends



the members' rights, promotes leadership by her actions and strives to make others succeed. We have no doubt when elected as a member of the Junior Executive Board she will put the federation and the members' rights, needs and opinions first, and represent the juniors competently, completely and capably.

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Junior Recording Secretary

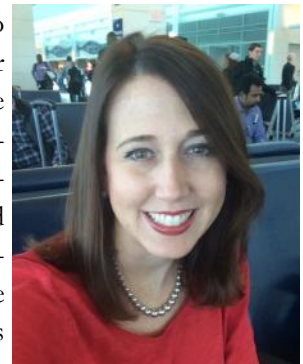
**Christa Nuckols** was born and raised in Huntington, WV. After graduating from West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Printing Management she moved to Spartanburg, SC. In South Carolina, a co worker invited her to attend a junior club meeting where she joined and began her 16 years of GFWC membership.

As a member of the GFWC Palmetto Junior Woman's Club, Christa held various offices including President. In 2007, Christa moved to Yulee, FL and joined the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Jacksonville and later became a dual member in the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Fernandina Beach.

She is currently serving her 2nd term as President with the Jacksonville Juniors. In 2012, she joined the FL Junior Planning Committee as the Junior Home Life Partnership Chair. For the 2014 - 2016 administration, she is serving as District 4 Junior Director and Junior Director Aide. Christa has a passion to help others and looks forward to continuing to live the volunteer spirit at the local and state level.

In addition to her GFWC volunteerism, Christa is actively involved with her church. She worships in the choir, plays on the co-ed softball team and works with 3 year olds in AWANA. Her full time job as the Director of Account Managers and Prepress at Drummond

allows her to pursue her love for the printing process and continue to find ways to improve the customer's experience.



Christa enjoys snow skiing, jazzercise and planning her next adventure. Her motto is 'work hard, play hard and have a positive attitude.' She is inspired to uphold the Junior Pledge by living each day trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist.

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Junior Recording Secretary



As a member of GFWC Brandon Junior Woman's Club since 2014, I've served as Publicity Chair and

of the Year and Marsha Lantz Volunteer of the Year. It was unexpected, but a nice surprise.

Outside of my club, I've assisted Vi with the District 8 Arts & Crafts Competition by designing the 2015 – 2016 programs. I assisted with the competition itself last year by checking in artwork and acting as a judge's assistant. It was a terrific learning experience.

While fairly new to GFWC, I regularly attend convention and have been fortunate enough to meet some wonderful women throughout the organization. It was these women who inspired me to move up to a position in GFWC where I feel that I can make a difference on a much larger scale.

On a personal note, I was born and raised in Florida. I've lived the majority of my adult life in the Brandon area. I have a degree in Interactive Media & Web Design and work as a Marketing Assistant, which consists of a combination of web and graphic design, social media management, and more. I also run Give Back Web Design, which is my web and graphic design business. I truly love what I do for a living!

Little known fact: I'm originally from Okeechobee! This connection is how I bonded with our very own Mrs. Dionna Farmer. My hope is that we are both elected as we work well together and could do great things for GFWC Juniors.

**Kim Lasorsa**

## Candidate for GFWC Florida Junior Budget Director

**Candice Melton** grew up in Crestview, in the Florida panhandle. She graduated from Florida State University in 2003 with a degree in Marketing and Risk Management/Insurance. Upon graduating, she moved to Tampa where she joined the GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club in 2004 and was the Juniorette



Advisor the following year. She returned to Tallahassee for a few years and joined the GFWC Tallahassee Junior Woman's Club. After relocating back to Tampa and the New Tampa Juniors in 2010, she served as the Juniorette Advisor, First Vice President, Parliamentarian and President. In 2015

she chaired the Night of 5000, GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club's largest fundraiser, which raised over \$9,800 after expenses. During this time she also served on the Junior Planning Committee as the Conservation Partnership

Chairman and then as the Education Program Chairman, receiving the Outstanding Junior Chairman award during both terms. She currently resides in Plant City, is a member of the GFWC Plant City Junior Woman's Club, and serves on the Junior Executive Committee as the Recording Secretary.

Candice married David Postel in August 2014, and they had their first baby, Sadie, in October 2015. She currently works for American Strategic Insurance as a Comparative Rater Analyst. In her spare time she enjoys sleeping (when Sadie allows it) and exploring Plant City.

Her experiences with membership in three different Junior clubs and various leadership positions have enabled her to have a broad foundation and understanding of GFWC on many levels. Candice enjoys meeting Juniors throughout the state, and she looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve on the Junior Executive Committee as the Junior Finance Director.

# Candidate for GFWC Florida Junior Budget Director

My name is **Cynthia V. Hall**, and I am running for Budget Director of GFWC Florida-Juniors. I joined the GFWC Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club when I moved back to my home town of Sebastian, Florida in 2009. I have served at the club level as President, Vice-President of Membership (my current position), Vice-President of Leadership, and various event and committee chairs. At the state level, I have served as Programs Chair of the GFWC Juniors, and this year am the Junior District Director of District 10, a long district that currently includes 3 junior clubs. I am also honored to be a member of the GFWC District 10 Past Directors Club as well as the GFWC Sebastian River Parliamentary Club. At Fall Board and Convention, I can often be found, if not helping with the Junior fundraising table or fun night, hanging out in the Minion Internet Café that Allie and Beth run. I find that my fellow clubwomen bring enthusiasm, joy, and (at least with the Sebastian Juniors) a healthy dose of humor to all of the projects that we do.

I seek the office of Junior Budget Director, as the position suits my background and skills set well. Professionally, I own and am the managing attorney of VanDeVoorde Hall Law, PL, a 4-attorney law firm with offices in Sebastian and Palm Bay, Florida. I work with my firm's budget and finances every day, and often have to adjust course along the way. I have also worked as an engineer, and for each project had to propose a reasonable budget and project plan and ensure that the project came in on-time and on-budget.

The Budget Director is, equally importantly, a member of the Junior Executive Committee, and I feel I can bring a good perspective to that leadership role. I have served as a director on several nonprofit boards in my community, and have chaired the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of North Indian River County and the county's Environmental Control Hearing Board. I think it is important to be both open-minded, and decisive, and feel like I am able to both persuade and be persuaded. I am a very analytical

person, and though I have my fair share of my own ideas, I find my role is often to bring a "nuts and bolts" approach to problem identification and solutions.

Personally, I am married to my husband of 18 years and am the mom of two girls (the older a member of the GFWC Sebastian River Juniores!) After work and on weekends, if not doing club work I am often cheering at girls lacrosse games or track meets, driving kids to piano lessons or chimes choir or science club, or participating in activities with my church. I hope I am able to serve the GFWC Florida Juniors as Budget Director, and thank all of the clubwomen who have been untiring supporters and friends.



*Living the* **VOLUNTEER** *Spirit*



## District 4 News

**GFWC Arlington Woman's Club** in Jacksonville, Florida, opened the October general meeting with a skit called "The Heifer and the Milk Maid," written and directed by one of our members. Heifer International, although not our primary focus this year, still has a big place in our hearts. Our President, **Linda Winkelmann**, is a real cowgirl from Texas. You can bet our Club theme for the last two years has been all about cowgirls. So, we got a cow costume from Chic-Fil-A for Linda to wear and dressed up another one of our members like a Milk Maid. After a few words about Heifer International, our own heifer made her grand entrance, followed by our Milk Maid with a little tray of chocolate milk for everyone. They went around the tables, milk pail in hand, collecting for the cow that we hope to buy through Heifer International for a needy family. Our generous club members got us off to an amazing start.



L-R: SALLY WALLACE, SYLVIA MILLARD, LINDA WINKELMANN, JANICE COMBS

**GFWC Arlington Woman's Club** invited Canine Companions for Independence to come to our October

meeting and tell us about CCI. Two trainers arrived with a precious little puppy, who could not have had better manners. He is a Lab/Retriever mix and his name is Pinto. Even at his early age, he already knew some commands. We took pictures and more pictures. President Linda asked if we wanted to adopt him, and of course, every hand went up, so we adopted Pinto. Pinto cost us \$500, and his trainers were thanked for a job well done. We are hoping to get some more pictures of Pinto as he grows up.



PINTO AND HIS TRAINERS

Each year, we try to do something really nice for the Emergency Pregnancy Center in our neighborhood. This is a place where at risk girls and women can go to get help with their pregnancies. The Center helps hundreds of girls and women each year to complete their pregnancies or give their babies up for adoption. We decided to give them a "baby shower." The members were shown a brown paper grocery bag that was decorated in baby colors and tied at the top. We gave the members each a paper bag and asked them to decorate the bag any way they wanted and bring it to the next meeting full of baby things. We invited the Director of the Center to come and get the bags. We also had a contest and awarded a prize for the most artistic



EMERGENCY PREGNANCY CENTER DIRECTOR ACCEPTING THE BABY BAGS

baby bag. The competition was steep as we had about 27 bags to choose from.

Every year, **GFWC Arlington Woman's Club** gives a generous gift to PACE Center for girls. They are located near to our Clubhouse and over the years we have built up a lasting relationship with them. Basically, this wonderful organization is for girls from dysfunctional homes to study, learn new skills, and receive counseling in a safe environment. We have given household goods for the graduating seniors going out on their own. We have offered scholarships to those girls seeking higher education, and this year, in addition to the \$150 we gave them, we asked how we could help. The girls wanted pillows. Our members made this happen and, as you can see from the picture, they got not only pillows, but sheets and pillowcases, too.



Sylvia Millard  
Reporting Chairman  
[sanaylor@aol.com](mailto:sanaylor@aol.com)



## District 4 News

[GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club](#) took part in an International project in Nassau Bahamas. We took a cruise November 16-21, 2015. As part of our trip we donated 105 lbs. of school supplies to Woodcock Primary School in Nassau. They were very happy to receive the school supplies. It took a while to get our full suitcases off the ship and an appeal to the Immigration Officer in charge to clear customs, but we finally made it. The children sang for us and had a special performance by their Drum Crops. It was a great International Outreach event. Thanks to all who contributed school supplies, including BJ's and Office Depot.

Carol Ann Womble  
President

[bcw1551@aol.com](mailto:bcw1551@aol.com)  
[Like us on Facebook](#)

Surrounded by a group of children, **GFWC Jacksonville Beaches Woman's Club** President and FCCB Mission Team Member, **Carol Ann Womble**, found herself in the middle of things. She and other Mission Members departed from Tampa on a Taking Love to Cuba flight to Cuba, taking over-the-counter drugs and T-shirt dresses to their sister church in Cuba.



## District 4 News

Photo from the White Elephant Auction 2015 held at the [Orange Park Woman's Club](#). \$500 was raised to benefit Hacienda Girls Ranch. **Christi Griffin** (on right) from the Hacienda Girls Ranch was our guest speaker.



Photos from the Orange Park Community Theatre, The Toby Show and reception in February 2015. **OPWC President Carolyn Clark** and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP **Susan Mills** presented a check for \$1,350 to benefit Haven Hospice.



The **Woman's Club of Starke** feted the Girls' Club of Bradford County with a celebratory end-of-year banquet at its historic clubhouse on May 27. Over fifty women and girls attended the event, enjoying a lunch of baked penne pasta with homemade meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit punch and cupcakes provided by the Woman's Club and prepared by members **Arleen Moorhous**, **Denise Durban** and **Donna Gillingham**.

During the celebration, Bradford High School students **Shermice Bass**, **Chyna Parker**, **Cheyenne Nobles** and **Deidrianna McCray**, together with Bradford Middle School students **Kayla Daniel**, **Tori Harris**, **Natayhia Raymond**, **Keyara Stone** and **Annrose Williams** were recognized for good attendance at Girls' Club meetings. Cheyenne Nobles as well as **Markeeshia Montgomery-Slocum** were honored for being graduating seniors.

**Melanie Fuhrman**, Manager of the Starke Walgreens store, attended the banquet and thanked members of the Girls' Clubs who had presented a special skit at Relay For Life to help raise awareness of cancer and raise funds to find a cure.

The Woman's Club has provided refreshments for all Girls' Club meetings for several years, and a number of its members have presented programs and/or attended the girls' meetings on



## District 4 News

a regular basis. “We have been looking for ways to strengthen our ties with the Girls’ Club and thought the banquet presented a perfect opportunity to do so,” said past Woman’s Club president **Mary Bridgman**. “Our mission statement expresses our desire to mentor and serve as role models to young ladies. We see our relationship with the Girls’ Club as key to living out that aspect of our mission.”

Current Woman’s Club **President Stacey Creighton** agreed. “I am thankful for the opportunity to demonstrate the community support that is out there for these girls and this program. It was a wonderful day!”

Girls’ Club Program Coordinator **Judy Dukes**, who is also a member of the

Woman’s Club, said, “The Girls Clubs of Bradford Middle and High School are wonderful programs to work with. It is a joy to watch the girls grow throughout the year. We have a great bunch of girls in the programs. We are very proud to be a part of their lives.” Dukes expressed her appreciation for funding the clubs receive from Communities in Schools of Bradford and Career Source of Northeast Florida.

Along with Dukes, BHS Girls’ Club facilitators **Lorna Reddish** and **Nancy Esford**, BMS facilitators **Melissa Schafer** and **Toni Fain**, and CIS staff member **Linda Bennett** attended the banquet. BMS principal **Mallory McConnell** and school secretary **Stephanie Merrill** were also in atten-

dance. Woman’s club members present for the event included **Stacey Creighton**, **Judy Dukes**, **Valeri Moore**, **Arleen Moorhous**, **Donna Gillingham** and **Denise Durban**.

Seventy girls participated in the Girls’ Clubs program during the 2014-2015 school year. The curriculum focuses on gender specific issues and incorporates partnerships with the Bradford County Public Health Department and Peaceful Paths, an organization for battered women.

Sincerely,

Linda Lee  
Corresponding Secretary  
904.966.3022  
[lindawc@embarqmail.com](mailto:lindawc@embarqmail.com)



## District 4 News

### GFWC Woman's Club of Welaka

declared that, for the month of October, we were going to PINK OUT WELAKA. And, we did just that. There was no doubt, as you drove into town. We wrote "Pink Out" in our chain link fences with pink solo cups, we hung balloons and inflatable balls with the pink ribbon logos all over town. We advertised in our two county newspapers and in the town's water bill. We sold pink lawn flamingos with a tag attached around the neck that read "in memory of," "in support of" or "in honor of." We purchased 200 flamingos and sold about 2/3 of them. We had numerous donations of \$25 and above. The husband of one of our members challenged other businesses and the town to meet or beat his donation of \$100. And, it worked!

Our Arts CSP joined the Home Life CSP and had a booth at the Welaka State Forest Fall Festival. The Arts CSP crafty members made "pink" items to sell at the festival. These included pink shell angels, pink cork ponies and pink cork giraffes, pink hanging terra cotta pots, as well as pink ribbons with a rose. Our most popular items were the rocks that were painted pink and had either the ribbon on them or words such as survivor, courage, strength, etc. We wore pink, displayed our club banner and also displayed a "Pink Out Welaka" banner.

One of the most interesting items was a "BRA PONG" game. A half sheet of plywood was painted pink and decorated with fancy bras. The object of the game was to toss a whiffle ball into a

"CUP." Everyone seemed to have fun with the game and the spirit in which it was intended.

Many people stopped to thank us for what we did and shared their stories of courage, strength, and survival with us. And, by the way, we have left a legacy. There are many, many pink flamingos in the yards all over the town. Addi-

tionally, the Town of Welaka painted the steps of town hall - PINK!

This program was a success and we will do it again in 2016, just bigger and better! We plan to take the lessons learned and apply them to our next Pink Out Welaka.

Jimmie Clark  
President





## District 5 News

Another successful venture for the **Cedar Key Woman's Club**! The FALL MARKET, always the Saturday after Thanksgiving, has been an annual event for the ladies of the CKWC for several years. Vendors are rented areas in the spacious clubhouse yard along with the CKWC GRANNIES ATTIC specializing in past treasures and keepsakes looking for a new home! Indoor tables are rented to additional vendors as well as the CKWC's own GRANNIE'S PANTRY, delicacies made by members, TRINKETS & TREASURES, recycled jewelry & finery, and food and beverages provided by the ladies of the club.

This year's fundraiser was extremely successful and for that we thank the wonderful volunteers of the club, and especially those who supported our efforts by attending and, of course, purchasing!

REMINDER to our DISTRICT 5



FRIENDS: Cedar Key calendars for 2016 are available for a \$10 donation to the CKWC. The photos are all provided by local photographers and are chosen by the club's official photographer **Vicki Crumpley**---who is also the person who initiated this wonderful and very successful fundraiser for the club. This is year 3 of the calendars, and each year surpasses the previous one in sales.

Ladies - plan a day to visit Cedar Key and attend the annual Fashion Show on March 16 at the C.K. Community Center. The event is a sell out every year, and each year the "pulse" of the show is different, so come and join us for a fun-filled day to share with other ladies from District 5!

Sue Rosenthal  
President

[susupug@bellsouth.net](mailto:susupug@bellsouth.net)

The [GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club](#)'s Public Issues Community Service Program held our annual luncheon for Military Women on Monday, November 9, 2015 at our clubhouse. The 57 invited guests enjoyed the female members of the JROTC Color Guard from Lecanto High School, who were present to open our ceremony. Army Veteran **Carole Jasler** sang the National Anthem and the songs from the different branches of the military. Our speaker was **Carol Phillips**, an Air Force veteran. The lady veterans enjoyed a great lunch and exciting door prizes in patriotic bags. A club member and her sister donated four handmade military throws. Four lucky lady veterans each won a military throw from their branch of service.



## District 5 News



ATTENDEES AT THE WOMEN VETERANS  
LUNCHEON



JROTC COLOR GUARD FROM  
LECANTO HIGH SCHOOL



BACK OF THE FLOAT

On November 11, 2015 the Public Issues Community Service Program of the **GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club** participated in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Inverness, Florida with a float to recognize lady veterans. Six lady veterans rode on our float which was driven by the veteran husband of one of our club members. Two of our club women, **Margie Harper** and **Becky Culver** joined the veterans on our float while four other club women, **Sheila Aja**, **Sharon Schiffer**, **Madeline Markowitz** and **Leslie Martineau** walked in front of the float with our GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club banner. What an honor to participate in this parade with our lady veterans.



FLOAT PREPARATION BEFORE THE PARADE



L-R: SEILA AJA, SHARON SCHIFFER,  
MADELINE MAROKOWITZ



LADY VETS WITH LESLIE MARTINEAU FROM PUBLIC ISSUES  
AND CLUB 1ST VICE PRESIDENT



# District 5 News

## Florida Manatee Fest Run 2016

January 24 dawned cold (very cold) and clear (through the large rain drops), with wind scattering leaves along the streets. Just the “ideal” conditions one would want for your inaugural 10K/5K/1 mile run. Always optimistic about the outcome of projects, the [GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club](#) members arrived at the clubhouse at 6:30 AM to help with the preparation for entering the runners we knew would come for our first Florida Manatee Fest Run.

Separately, cold, rain and wind do not deter runners, but combined created a serious concern. Some registrants decided to stay in their warm beds but 130 dedicated runners, ages 6-89, braved the conditions eager to try a new course.



YOUNG AND OLD,  
REGISTERING FOR THE RACE



Spirits were high for everyone, members and runners alike, as they waited for the race to begin at 7:00 AM. Rocky, the manatee mascot of the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, joined the group to support the race with his name. No one, volunteers or runners, could resist posing for a photo with Rocky.

The Crystal River High School NJROTC color guard presented the colors, the National Anthem was played and the runners and walkers were off to the finish.

In what seemed like a short time, the participants were back in the clubhouse ready to enjoy the warmth, hot drinks and snacks as the awards were presented.



The 10K/5K/1 mile run was a new venture for our Woman's Club, the culmination of over a year of planning and dreaming big. After consulting with city officials, the local chamber of commerce, and other community leaders, we committed to host this major event. Proceeds from the race will be used to help provide funds for scholarships for local students and adult women, and for service dogs for wounded military personnel.

DRC Sports, Inc., was contracted to manage the event and lay out the various courses, tasks more easily done by knowledgeable individuals rather than struggled with by eager volunteers. .



ROSE BRONECKI AND HELEN  
LEFAVE MODEL RACE SHIRTS

Runners encouraged our **GFWC Crystal River Woman's Club** to host the race again next year, hopefully with cooperation of Florida's unpredictable weather. The idea of making the run an annual event was met with enthusiasm by our club volunteers who worked at the event - even those who stood out in the cold handing out water. Not only does the race have the potential to raise a large amount of money in a single event by soliciting sponsors and signing up participants, but it increases the visibility of the club throughout the community.



## District 5 News

On January 30 and 31, the [Gainesville Woman's Club](#) held its third annual Dinner Theatre and Luncheon Matinee to raise funds for Alachua County Schools. Local celebrities and club members performed a radio drama, written by Gainesville native Norman Gilliland, "*Laughs Take a Holiday*." The setting was a cruise from Tampa to Havana, Cuba in 1956. Music from the 1950's was performed by the University of Florida Jazz Combo. More than two-hundred guests enjoyed a thoroughly relaxing and fun event while the club

raised funds for a Natural Learning Center. Each fourth-grade student in the school received a sabal palm (our state tree) as a gift from the **Gainesville Woman's Club**. In addition to planting their trees, the Foresters USA students recited the poem, "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer and sang an original song about Arbor Day.

Our Conservation Committee has participated in the Adopt-a-Highway Program this year. The committee has held two clean-up workdays, and on January 9, members collected eight bags or nearly 120 pounds of debris. Our next workday is March 12th.

On January 23, a tree planting ceremony in honor of Arbor Day took place on the front lawn of Caring and

Sharing Learning Center. Each fourth-grade student in the school received a sabal palm (our state tree) as a gift from the **Gainesville Woman's Club**. In addition to planting their trees, the Foresters USA students recited the poem, "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer and sang an original song about Arbor Day.

Web: [gfwcfl-gainesvillewomensclub.org](http://gfwcfl-gainesvillewomensclub.org)

Email: [gwcwomensclub@att.net](mailto:gwcwomensclub@att.net)

Facebook: [Gainesville Woman's Club](https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleWoman'sClub)



MEMBERS PICKING UP LITTER ALONG "GFWC GAINESVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY"



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SIGN...  
MISSPELLED OUR NAME



CAST OF "LAUGHS TAKE A HOLIDAY"

DINNER THEATRE- GFWC GAINESVILLE WC  
PRESIDENT JO MORETTA GIVES HER WELCOME  
WHILE DRESSED IN HER '50S DUNGAREES





## District 5 News

**GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club** donated the funds to purchase a chapter pig in October 2015 for the West Port High School (Ocala, FL) FFA program. FFA stands for Future Farmers of America. "FFA is the *leadership component of the West Port High School Agricultural Education Program. Through this national student organization, students may participate in contests, award applications and leadership conference that enhance their skillsets in all types of agricultural career*



The Little Free Library movement has swept the country and **GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club** enthusiastically climbed aboard. Since GOWC Education members spend hours reading to children at Anthony Elementary School (Anthony, FL) it was a natural offshoot to want to provide a Little Free Library to the Anthony School students. GOWC Education Chairperson, **Peggy Phillips** found **Bill St. Louis**, who built the Little Free Library with funds provided by GOWC. **Stacy Houston**, Principal of Anthony Elementary School, happily accepted the Little Free Library at a dedication ceremony where all children, teachers and school district administrators were involved. GFWC Greater Ocala Woman's Club continually keeps the Little Free Library stocked full of books year round.

*fields."* The FFA students feed and take care Hammie the pig while learning farming skills. GOWC members would drop by and see Hammie's progress.

Hammie will be judged by weight on Friday, February 26, 2016 at the Southeast Livestock Pavillion, Ocala, FL and auctioned on February 27 at the same location. Hammie's auctioned price will provide the funds to purchase more animals to take care of by the FFA students.

GFWC GREATER OCALA WOMAN'S CLUB PRESIDENT, CHARLENE EARL, AND GOWC RECORDING SECRETARY,

ILENE KLECKNER PRESENT THE CHECK TO WEST PORT HIGH SCHOOL'S FFA PRESIDENT, KAYLINE KLECKNER



PEGGY PHILLIPS, GOWC EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON AND LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BUILDER, BILL ST. LOUIS.



L-R: GOWC MEMBERS, MARY ZIEGENHORN, ILENE KLECKNER, PEGGY PHILLIPS, GOWC PRESIDENT CHARLENE EARL AND GOWC MEMBER, SANDRA STIPINS

## District 5 News

In honor of the Day of Service and Remembrance, September 11, [GFWC High Springs New Century Woman's Club](#) presented the City of High Springs Fire Department and Police Department, EMT station, Fort White Sheriff's station and the Fort White Fire Department with eleven baskets filled with desserts, snacks and fruit.

The **GFWC High Springs New Century Woman's Club** had the most members attend the Tour of Officers at the Williston Woman's Club. Thank you for a great time with yummy food and great company.

On November 12, we celebrated our 115th anniversary being a member of the GFWC with a party attended by many of our fellow sister club members and friends. **Margie Harper** presented the Club with a beautiful and meaningful plaque. Our Mayor presented us with a Proclamation honoring the Club.



115TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY -  
VICKIE COX & MARGIE HARPER



9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



TOUR OF OFFICERS

The Holiday Expo enabled us to add some money to our treasury allowing us to continue supporting the many projects for people in need. We had great vendors with beautiful and unique items to sell. It's always nice to



HOLIDAY EXPO

visit with our friends in the community.

Taking part in the Christmas Tree Lighting was so much fun. The hot dogs were cooked under a tree by Patti (where electric was available) and delivered to Ellie to be sold. Vickie, Event Chairman for the Chamber, had many of our members volunteer at the event. Children decorated cookies and ornaments, wrote letters to Santa, had their face painted and had a visit with Santa.

In between all the goings-on, our Relay Team had a successful

fundraising dinner and a yard sale.

Our Club had a float in the annual High Springs Christmas Holiday Parade. The float was decorated with a fireplace, Christmas tree and all kind of

toys. Many members rode on the float; some walked and gave out tons of candy, other members sold hot dogs and drinks. The children had their faces painted and a

*Continued...*



## District 5 News



TREE LIGHTING - SANTA & ELVES, VICKIE COX,  
CAROLE TATE, SANDRA WEBB

visit with Santa. An Elf helped Santa with the children and gave out candy canes.

Carole Tate  
President

[catate21@gmail.com](mailto:catate21@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS PARADE -  
SALLIE MILNER,  
ELLIE HUBLER,  
PATTI LAMNECK,  
CAROLE TATE,  
VICKIE COX



RELAY  
FOR  
LIFE

This "Portrait of a Bride" is that of a 45-year member of the [GFWC Woman's Club of Inverness](http://www.gfwcinvernessfl.org) taken at her wedding on April 30, 1939. **Del Lange** was a former president of the club and active until about 6 months before her death in April 2015, including serving as devotional chair and assisting in garage sales through 2014. After her death, her wedding dress was donated to the club. The gown will be a centerpiece at a February 20, 2016, fundraising event featuring wedding gowns and history from 1890 to 2015. Interestingly, the show is named Portrait of a Bride.

Sandra Koonce  
352-634-4216

website: [gfwcinvernessfl.org](http://gfwcinvernessfl.org)

email address: [volunteer@gfwcinvernessfl.org](mailto:volunteer@gfwcinvernessfl.org)

[Like us on Facebook](#)



## District 6 News

[GFWC Cocoa Beach Woman's Club](#) recently held one of its big fund-raisers on Saturday, February 6.

Our "Love is in the Air!" fashion show was a tremendous success! **Janet Carr** of *Accessories & More* was the vendor. All the ladies oohed & aahed about her great selection. **Sheryle Schaeffer** was the chair for this event and handled all the details with great precision. The red, white, and pink carnation centerpieces were created by **Julia George** with assistance by **Mary Woolbert** and **Bonnie Whiting**. This event's success was due to all the hard work of our club. The funds generated will go toward our charitable endeavors.

On March 5, we are hosting our "Golden Gala" in commemoration of our 50th year of voluntarism!

This event promises to be a show-stopper! **Teressa Hardcastle** is chairing the event with the help of **Marilyn Grigsby**, our President, and a 50 year member of CBWC. Tickets for the event are available in three price ranges: general, \$50 per person; patron, \$75 per person; and, grand patron, \$100 per person. The cocktail hour (cash bar) will begin at 6 PM with hors d'oeuvres served concurrently. At 7 PM, a sit-down dinner will be served by Renaissance Catering. Music and dancing follow dinner. Music will be provided by Steve Kirsner and his band. Steve is a well-known and well-appreciated musician in our area. Our venue is the Cocoa Beach Country Club, 5000 Tom Warriner Blvd., Cocoa Beach. For tickets, contact **Eileen Cooper** at 321-626-1566.

Jean Christy  
Media Secretary  
[jbchristy71@gmail.com](mailto:jbchristy71@gmail.com)



A FULL HOUSE!



L - R: CBWC MODELS LUISA GREGAN, JEAN CHRISTY, BARB FREEMAN, KAITI HARDCASTLE, BONNIE WHITING, SUE LOFTIN, CINDY SIMMONS, MARILYN GRIGSBY

# GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS

[\*www.GFWC.org\*](http://www.GFWC.org)





## District 6 News

With 218 members, the [Grand Haven Woman's Club](#) is continuing its mission to support organizations in the Flagler County community as well as a few statewide organizations, such as [Special Olympics](#), [Camp Boggy Creek](#), [Hacienda Girls Ranch](#) and [Canine Companions for Independence](#).

In January, we received coverage in both the Palm Coast Observer and the Daytona News Journal about our Tech Class, which was coordinated by our Education Committee along with the Flagler County Education Foundation. This was an opportunity for 10 students at the i3 Academy at Flagler Palm Coast High School to be teachers for some of our members to enhance their ability to use their technology tools. And it was an opportunity for the **Grand Haven Woman's Club** to present the Flagler County Education Foundation with a check for the Stuff Bus as well as Take Stock in Children.

We have also had a marvelous opportunity for some of our members to make small guitars into works of art that will be sent to terminally ill children in hospitals. This is a partnership that we have developed with a company in St.



GRAND HAVEN WC GUITARS

Augustine that makes these guitars from scrap wood.

The Material Girls, a group of our members who do things with yarn, fabric, etc., have signed on to the "Linus Project." Each member will knit a square and combine them to create a comforting "security" blanket which will be donated to needy children. In addition, we continue to knit chemo caps, which are so appreciated, especially in the winter.

We also wanted to have fun while raising funds and we did just that during January with our Gloria Sanchez Memorial Day of Games and the Grand Haven Woman's Club Evening at the

Flagler Playhouse. Special thanks to all of our members, friends, neighbors and family who participated and supported these events, which raised over \$5,500 combined. The special performance at the Flagler Playhouse was "*Bikinis*" and our fearless Ways & Means Committee got into character for the evening, wearing their bikinis (tee shirts).

Some of the organizations that will benefit from this year's fund raising activities are: Family Life Center, Flagler Free Clinic, Florida Hospital Flagler Foundation, Friends of Flagler Library, Habitat for Humanity, Palm Coast Arts Foundation, Palm Coast Volunteer Fire Rescue, Turtle Patrol, Whispering Meadows Ranch, High School Scholarships, Hope 2 Health Foundation, Guardian Ad Litem Foundation.

Nancy Carlton, President, GHWC  
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[www.grandhavenwomansclub.com](http://www.grandhavenwomansclub.com)



GRAND HAVEN WC i3 STUDENT  
WITH MEMBERS



GRAND HAVEN WC BIKINI COMMITTEE

## District 6 News

Our club is one of the smaller clubs in our District. We average between 30 and 35 members at any given time. I tell you this because, I want you to understand how truly incredible the ladies of the [GFWC Melbourne Woman's Club](#) really are! Because of their hard work, devotion and love for the community, our little club has done giant things. This is why our motto is "Small but Mighty".

[Operation HOPE](#), located in Fellsmere, Florida, is a nonprofit organization that assists people in need. For 15 years, **Operation Hope** has been helping families in need with groceries on the 1st and 3rd Saturday night at 5pm. Every year they help over 1200 families with food. In 2006 they opened a brand new preschool and hired excellent teachers. They also run a thrift store to help support their projects.



CHERYL BOYDSTON AND BRENDA HOFFMAN LOOK ON AS OPERATION HOPE CHILDREN OPEN HANDMADE SACKS FILLED WITH CLOTHES, TOYS, AND TREATS



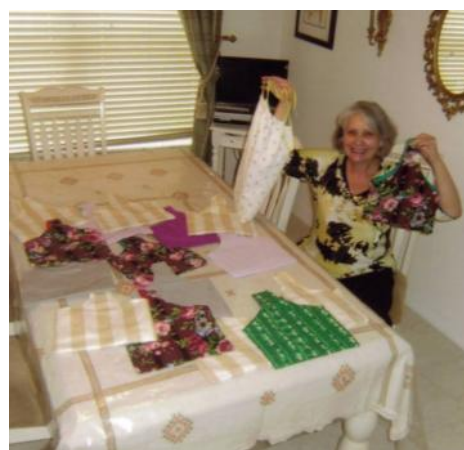
DANI CHAMPAGNE AND CANINE COMPANION PUPPY IN TRAINING, YUKIKO AT THE OPENING OF THE WOMEN IN AMERICAN SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT, FUNDED AND CREATED BY GFWC MELBOURNE WOMAN'S CLUB

**GFWC Melbourne Woman's Club** has worked with **Operation HOPE** to provide toys, clothing, educational material and more to the school. We



GFWC MELBOURNE WOMAN'S CLUB AND HEROES ON THE WATER SHOW OFF THEIR BANNERS

have donated clothing and other items for the thrift shop and non perishable food items for the pantry. We also make financial contributions for their programs. The most exciting part of working with Operation HOPE is that we are able to visit and distribute our contributions directly to the children themselves. This year, several members drove down with carloads of socks, hats, shirts, dolls, toys, games, hygiene supplies and food. Our small



CARMEN ORTIZ-RIVERA SHOWS OFF WHEELCHAIR BAGS AT A RECENT WORKSHOP.

club made a HUGE difference in the lives of these little ones who have so little. The children hugged their handmade goodie sacks and insisted on putting on their new socks and shirts right in the classroom. The smiles and gratitude of these children was more than heart warming! It helped us to realize that, although we are a small club, there is SO much we can do for the good of our community -



## District 6 News

making lunches for Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after they come in from fishing with [Heroes on the Water](#), Christmas caroling with the girls from [Hacienda Girls' Ranch](#) and supplying them with food, clothing and other needed items, helping a Korean War Veteran move to her new home, sewing quilts for the babies in **Holmes Regional Medical Center** or Heart and Cancer Pillows, or just playing BINGO with the residents in the **Life Care Center**! Each small act reaps tremendous benefits. We are grateful for the chance to be Mighty in service!

Marion Ambrose  
President

[Like us on Facebook](#)



PRESIDENT MARION AMBROSE (GFWC MELBOURNE) AND PRESIDENT REBECCA CASTILLO (SATELLITE BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB) AND SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS JOIN FORCES TO DELIVER SEVERAL CARLOADS OF FOOD TO HACIENDA GIRLS' RANCH.

A Ladies' Victorian High Tea was presented by the [Village Improvement Association Orange City Woman's Club](#), Nov. 7 at the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, Orange City, (**Jean Miller**, chairman). The



PARTIAL VIEW OF THE ROOM WITH A UNIVERSITY HIGH STUDENT SERVING GUESTS AND THE UNIVERSITY HIGH STRING QUARTET IN THE BACKGROUND

\$2,758 profit will be gifted to the Club's numerous charities, plus a special scholarship will be given to a local high school senior going on to college.

The Tea was catered by University High School Culinary Arts (**Diane Mahoney**, Instructor), and entertainment was provided by the University High School string quartet (**Emmaleigh Carr**, Music Instructor). Guests wore Fancy and Outrageous hats for prizes for the best of each category, with all guests voting. Two beautiful orchid plants



A TABLE SET FOR GUESTS

were awarded. Guest speaker, **Linda Marlow**, Certified Laughter Teacher, had all guests enjoying and laughing with her.

Members were encouraged to wear Victorian dress, and President **Priscilla Ballasy** was outstanding in her Victo-

## District 6 News

rian gown. Door prizes and silent auction and raffle items were given away, and the over 100 women in attendance had a wonderful, enjoyable afternoon.

Our official email address is [viaorancecity-womansclub@gmail.com](mailto:viaorancecity-womansclub@gmail.com)  
Our website is [www.gfwcorancecity.org](http://www.gfwcorancecity.org).

Joan LaFleur  
Club Treasurer  
[jlaflleur6@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jlaflleur6@cfl.rr.com)



MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WHO WERE PRESENT

CLUB PRESIDENT  
PRISCILLA BALLASY

The [GFWC Satellite Beach Woman's Club](#) has funded a Holiday Project for many years. In 2015, our club contributed monies to the HUD Senior Housing Garden Apartments residents located near Eau Gallie Causeway, beachside. A check was given to Second Harvest Food Bank to the Garden Apartments account, to supplement their food stores. This year we supported them with another check for \$1,440, donating to our elderly residents having trouble making ends meet at the end of the month when their food supplies run short. Our senior citizens are sometimes overlooked, but we must always remember that "aging matters."

Rebecca Castillo  
[rltcastillo@gmail.com](mailto:rltcastillo@gmail.com)  
321-777-7632



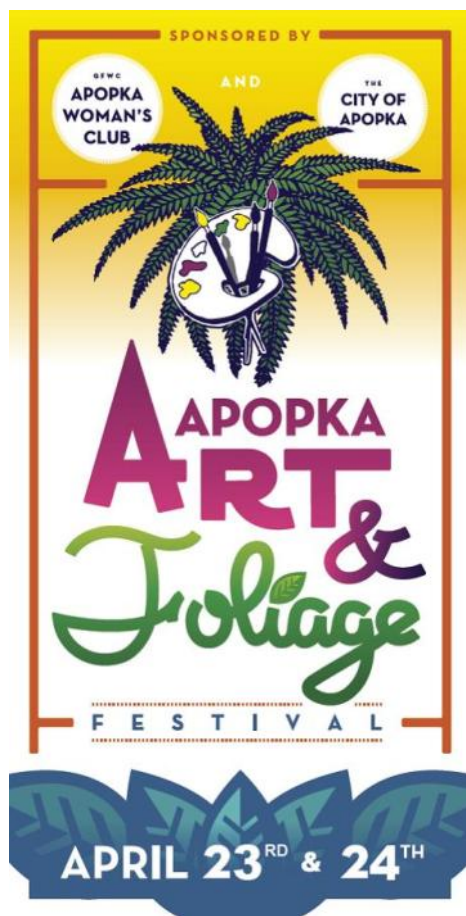
TREASURER JEANNE ROACH, SECOND HARVEST WORKER WILL POPE,  
AND DEE ANDERSON, HOLIDAY PROJECT CHAIRMAN



## District 7 News

The [GFWC Apopka Woman's Club](#) is celebrating our 57th year as a Federated Club. Our membership is now 99 and many of these new members are younger women. They have stepped up to the plate and have become actively involved in the club. There is a lot of enthusiasm in our group.

Our main fundraiser is the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival, which provides the money for donations to 22+ charitable organizations. The Festival is unique in that it combines art and foliage. Over the past 55 years, it has developed into a community venture. The local government, local civic organizations and youth groups are an integral part of the weekend. Last year, the festival showcased 120 artists in the juried show. The finest array of foliage is brought directly from 22 Apopka nurseries. This is the one time during the year that the many varieties of plants are made available for the public to purchase. There are in kind vendors, food vendors, plant doctors, entertainment, school art and kid's zone. Over 20,000 visitors enjoy the two days of fun and fellowship. We work all year long in preparation for this event. Each of our members wears a green festival shirt and works the



festival to make sure every visitor is made to feel welcome.

This year, The President's projects was an aide to help publicize the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival. Thirty Banners were designed, printed and hung from light posts on Highway 441 and Park Avenue in Apopka. Fifty yard signs with the same design as the banners decorated yards and roads all over Apopka. The [Apopka Woman's Club](#) website, [Apopka Art and Foliage Festival](#) website and [Facebook](#) page were updated.

In April, scholarships were presented to six seniors from our two high schools. An additional scholarship was

presented to an older woman with a desire to further her education. \$1,000 is awarded to the Miss Apopka Scholarship Fund. We are pleased to sponsor a sophomore student from each of our local high schools to attend the HOBY Leadership Weekend.

One of our favorite donations is to **Shop With a Cop**. Officers from our Apopka Police Department take children from a needy family to Wal-Mart and give each child \$100 to spend as they wish at Christmas. Most of the children spend the money on their family instead of spending it on themselves. We also gave \$2,000 to Loaves & Fishes, an organization that provides food and necessary items to the needy.



In March, we host a Bunco Party that raises funds for our budget. We seat 100 ladies for an afternoon of yells, screams and laughter. There are food, door prizes and an auction table. This is a good time to invite visitors and introduce them to our Club Members.

*Continued...*

## District 7 News



PRESIDENT DENA MORROW  
RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY RISSE'S  
45 YEARS OF SERVICE

In October, we won 1st prize for the Most Ghoul-ish Tent at Halloween in the Park sponsored by the City of Apopka. Our members dressed up and gave out tons of candy to several thousand ghosts, goblins and little angels.

In May, members with perfect attendance are

awarded a certificate and long time members are recognized. **Shirley Risser** received recognition for 45 years of service to the **Apopka Woman's Club**.



MEMBERS TAKING A BREAK AT THE FESTIVAL

Members of the Apopka Woman's Club are in evidence in most aspects of the community. We strive to support other events in the city.

Please let me take this opportunity to invite each of you to the 55th Apopka Art and Foliage Festival on April 23 and 24 at the Kit Land Nelson Park in downtown Apopka.

Dena Morrow, President

[denamorrow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:denamorrow@cfl.rr.com)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

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**GFWC Central Florida Woman's Service League** hosted a Special Needs Dance. The theme was "pajama party." Over 100 people attended and danced until 9 PM.

Club members decorated the hall with books/toothbrushes/toothpaste and stars. Attendees enjoyed pizza, chips and cupcakes. After the dance, the attendees took home the table decorations. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Mary Blake

L-R: MARY BLAKE, JOANNE BEHERS, JONNE SPARROW, RENEE KILLIRI, NANCY GARLANGER, SHERRY DAHLSTEDT





## District 7 News

[GFWC Central Florida Women's Service League](#) adopts a family every Christmas and plays Santa Claus. Here we are shopping for all the items on the list given to the club by the mother of the family. In addition, we were able to give the family a Publix gift card for food and a Olive Garden gift card for a dinner out.

**GFWC Central Florida Women's Service League** enjoys their annual Christmas party at a clubwoman's home. She has a beautiful home and has tried to get us to enjoy our pot luck dinner around her dining room table, but we always squeeze in around her small kitchen table every year. We have such fun around that small table!



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

**Central Florida  
Women's Service League**



"do what you can, when you can, as best you can"

In September 2015, the [Clermont Woman's Club](#) presented a check for \$1000 to [Take Stock in Children](#). The check was presented at the September Spelling Bee fundraiser event. For several years now, our club has supported Take Stock in Children with monetary donation and member's participation to mentor students in their program. The program offers motivated low-income children a caring volunteer mentor, a college success coach and a college scholarship.



L-R: GAIL WEIDNER, TSIC PROGRAM MANAGER,  
OLLIE EMORY, TSIC CHAIRMAN  
FOR CLERMONT WOMAN'S CLUB  
AND SONIA WILLIAMS, TSIC PROGRAM MANAGER

## District 7 News

Last October was another successful year for the [Clermont Woman's Club](#) Annual Fashion Show event; one of our major fundraiser. The committee started planning and working on the details for the fashion show in June. On the second day the tickets were on sale, the event was SOLD OUT and some were on stand-by list. The outpouring of support and donations continued until the week before the fashion show. We are very grateful for our loyal supporters and the new ones that joined us this year.

[Camp Boggy Creek](#) is a year round camp serving seriously ill children throughout Florida. Their mission is to enrich the lives of seriously ill children and their families by creating a life enhancing camp experience that is excit-



FLORIDA CLUBWOMAN



OUR 2015 MODELS: FROM LEFT, FRANCINE TREMBLAY, LIZ MARTINEZ, LYNN LUPOLI, HELEN COONEY (CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE), JANET OF ACCESSORIES & MORE, ARLENE TUOHEY, DEBBIE MILWEE, LISA GRAHAM AND LINDA CARBERRY

ing, empowering, memorable, safe and medically sound at no cost to them. It is one of the various charities and organizations that we support through 3 major fundraising events we hold every year.

**Ollie Emory** and **Jo Fleming**, members of the **Clermont Woman's Club** attended the Annual Day of Remembrance at Boggy Creek Camp last October 2015 (picture on left). Honored were friends and family members who were touched by the magic of Boggy Creek.

In November, the **Clermont Woman's Club** generously met the request of donations of supplies to be sent to Cheshire Services in Ethiopia. **Linda Jacobson**, who lived in Clermont for a few years felt a call to work abroad, both for teaching small children in International Schools and helping in missions. She is currently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and asked the club to assist the young women, who

come for treatment at Cheshire Services with some needed materials such as flannel, underwear, wash clothes, disposable baggies and other things that they could use to make pads for their period. **Connie Carlson**, a friend of Linda and a member of the Clermont Woman's Club took care of the packaging and sent it to Ethiopia.



CONNIE CARLSON

[Cheshire Services](#) has a widespread network of medical facilities that



## District 7 News

work at the heart of communities to treat orthopedic disabilities and help the community remove the social stigma associated with disability through social rehabilitation services.

In November 2015, Clermont Elementary School has once again provided the [Clermont Woman's Club](#) with the wish list from 33 children including their siblings.

The members get to be Santa's helpers by making their wishes come true by purchasing clothes, shoes and a toy indicated on the wish list and was brought to their December meeting all lovingly wrapped and labeled. **Pam Bennett**, chairperson for this project, coordinated the gathering and delivery of the gifts to the school.

For the past several years the **Clermont Woman's Club** has presented \$1000 to [Cooper Memorial Library](#) to purchase new books for the Cooper Memorial Library's Teen Room. Director **Boyd Bruce** is pictured (below



PAM BENNETT, PROJECT CHAIR, WITH SOME OF THE WISH GIFTS READY TO BE DELIVERED.

left) accepting the check from Clermont Woman's Club Library Chair **Ann Dupee**. Club members appreciate the community's support of its Annual Fall Luncheon/Fashion Show that made this donation possible.

Pictured (below right) are Clermont Woman's Club's current president, **Sylvia Barto** presenting a \$1000 check to **Jerry Colyer**, director of [Faith Neighborhood Center](#). The club mem-

bers have also been supporting the center by bringing non-perishable food at every meeting and/or directly delivering it to the center. The center was founded in 1972 providing direct support in terms of food, clothes, and financial assistance for utilities and medical treatment among other things.

Mary Joy Wells  
Second Vice President  
[info@clermontwomansclub.org](mailto:info@clermontwomansclub.org)



## District 7 News

The lawn of Lake Mary Historical Museum on Country Club Road in Lake Mary was spinning with color and vibrancy from the metallic pinwheels planted there for the month of April celebrating "Pinwheels for Prevention."

### GFWC Lake Mary Woman's Club

and The City of Lake Mary partnered this year to share the importance of being aware of child abuse and displaying child safety within our community. All over the country people were taking note of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and we in Lake Mary were a part of this important endeavor.

Lake Mary Woman's Club plans to continue working with "City Fathers" in this strong partnership to help eradicate child abuse from the lives of children in our Lake Mary community.



L-R: MARTY SCHWALLIE, JEAN BROWN, LINDA AKERSON, LYNN CLINE, KATHY SUTTON, SUE WARREN

Myra Kinnie, Chairman of the project, and all the ladies of Lake Mary Woman's Club stress that every person can be a part of this endeavor by sup-



L-R: PAST PRESIDENT RONNIE CAPALINO, PRESIDENT JEAN BROWN

porting the welfare of children in our own communities.

We carpoled to Pinot's Palette at 9 AM on a Monday morning. The day was bright -- a great day for painting. The picture was already chosen. We knew it was going to be fun for all.

Upon arrival we got snacks and, of course, our mimosas. We sat down to paint, and that's when the fun began. We were looking at the canvas thinking, "What do I do?" The instructor was very patient with us, and walked us through the steps. Then our eyes started to wander to each other's canvases, and the laughter began.

Each painting had its own view, because beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder. We had a pizza lunch after-

ward, laughing all the way home. Fun was had by all.

Twice a year, we gather with our club sisters at the street we've adopted to clean. We've been asked if we are on a jail work release program for women, or work for the county, but no one wanted to believe us when told them that we were volunteering. Our ladies share laughter picking up trash. The bag seldom

gets halfway full because we have one of the cleanest streets in Lake

*Continued...*



BACK L-R: HELEN POLGAR, PAT BLAKE, MARY ANDERSON, JEAN BROWN  
FRONT L-R: MARTY SCHWALLIE, KATHY SUTTON, GINA MADDEN-HEUTZ



## District 7 News

Mary. We have our fun, fulfill our goals for GFWC and then go to break-fast.

**GFWC Lake Mary Woman's Club** is proud to be a part of the life of Tonx a CCI dog that is finishing training to be one of Orange County's first official courthouse dogs. The ladies graciously supplied the funds to buy and care for Tonx in training. His mission will be to help victims, especially children, deliver effective testimony in court. Tonx, the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's canine facility dog, was raised by a mother and son team in Heathrow. Therefore, Tonx was able to make some of [Lake Mary's Woman Club](#) meetings to visit and show off his skills.

Special traits that Tonx has that shine above the rest are keen observation

and awareness of his surroundings. The look on his face when he studies things is unbelievable. He has a bright future ahead of him in the court system. Check out [this story](#) in the Orlando Sentinel about Tonx and his facilitator, Cindy Frongello.

The **GFWC Lake Mary Woman's Club** wants to promote literacy by getting books in the hands of younger readers. Our members gather books from family members, neighbors, friends, stores, thrift shops and yard sales. Then at least twice a year we travel to Laundromats in the Sanford area and place these new and gently



L-R: PRESIDENT JEAN BROWN, GINA MADDEN-HEUTZ, PAT BLAKE, SUZY PORTER, LINDA AKERSON, GLADYS HUELMO

used books in racks. Our purpose is to give children of all ages an opportunity not only to read while at the Laundromat, but to take a book home.

We realize that for some youngsters there may be few chances to 'own' a book. We hope through our efforts to spread the joy of reading.

Lake Mary Museum had its annual Christmas open house on December 6, 2015.

At this annual event, a fundraiser to purchase decorated Christmas tree is sponsored by small business companies, individual home owners, and organizations. Silent auction determines who will buy the trees.

The **Lake Mary Woman's Club** also decorated a tree for this event. Our tree was a dog Christmas tree. The tree was decorated by our members. Our tree was Number 1 and sold for the most money. Proceeds were donated to the Lake Mary Museum.

Jean Brown, President  
[sparkoflight1@aol.com](mailto:sparkoflight1@aol.com)



CINDY FRONGELLO AND TONX



MARTY SCHWALLIE

## District 7 News

The [GFWC Oviedo Woman's Club](#) is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year and we are celebrating by moving our largest fundraiser to a new location! The Oviedo Woman's Club's **Great Day in the Country 2016** is moving to the City of Oviedo's new "downtown" Oviedo on the Park. Our event has been held at Lawton Elementary for over 25 years; however, our club members said it is time to move.

2016 is the 43rd year of our arts and crafts festival and we know that this will be our best! We will have approximately 350 vendors: arts, crafts, food and non-profits. There will also be entertainment and children will be able to use the existing kids area and splash pad. Prizes for our craft vendors will be awarded and our Student Art Fest showcases the talent in our elementary, middle and high schools.

We invite you to come and have a "Great Day" with the Oviedo Woman's Club on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Oviedo on the Park.



2015 FESTIVAL CHAIRS & DIRECTORS L-R: REGINA BERESWILL, FESTIVAL CHAIR; ROBERTA MCQUEEN, CATHY MELENDEZ, MICHELE MINGOIA, JOYCE CASALESE - ALL DIRECTORS; CINDY DRAGO, FESTIVAL CHAIR



2015 GREAT DAY COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS - TOP ROW L-R: SANDY MCPHERSON, LINDA HENDERSON, JESSIE FRAIL, ROBERTA MCQUEEN, CATHY MELENDEZ, CINDY DRAGO; THIRD ROW L-R: CARLA SIMMS, ANN EPLING, ALISON WALSH, LORA BRYAN, YVONNE MOUSER, BARBARA VEST; SECOND ROW L-R: REGINA BERESWILL, GERRY CAMP, JACKIE LICHTENSTEIN, PATRICIA CATES, MICHELE MINGOIA, DONNA STUTIN, STACY CARDEN, LINDA EBNER, SANDI MORAN; BOTTOM ROW L-R: STACY CONOMOS, LIZ AULIN, JOYCE CASALESE, KATHY REINHARD



# FLORIDA JUNIORS

## GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club

A festive poster for the 'Mardi Gras Crawl' event. The background is a textured, light brown color with scattered colorful confetti. At the top left, the date and time are listed: 'SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016' and '12:30 PM - 5:30 PM'. Below this, the location is 'DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG, FL'. To the right, the words 'Mardi Gras Crawl' are written in large, colorful, stylized letters. Above the word 'Mardi' is a blue and yellow Mardi Gras mask. Below the main title, a purple banner contains the text 'GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club'. At the bottom left, it says 'Benefiting local St. Petersburg charities!'.

In 2015 the [GFWC St. Petersburg Junior Woman's Club](#) set out to raise more money than ever through fundraising efforts. The club's one annual fundraiser was the Fall Festival- Pumpkin Palooza. A group of new members set out to organize a Spring Fundraiser and the Mardi Gras Crawl was born. The event took place on March 7, 2015, and the club raised \$2,932.12! After expenses for printing, pizza, and "swag," the event netted \$2,592.31. Because of its huge success, we plan to organize the same event again this spring!



The Mardi Gras Crawl is a fundraising bar crawl, in which participants purchase tickets for \$25. Each ticket will entitle the crawler to a Mardi Gras "swag bag" (that includes a koozie with the club's name on it, some beads, and a mask), one opportunity drawing ticket, pizza, and exclusive crawl specials for food and drinks at each stop. Additional opportunity drawing tickets as well as 50/50 tickets will be sold at each stop, and prizes will be awarded throughout the crawl. The crawl will be March 5, 2016 from 12 PM - 5:30 PM and we plan to stop at 5 local bars/restaurants. Participants are encouraged to dress in the Mardi Gras theme and at stop #2 we

will crown the King and Queen of Mardi Gras! Everyone who came out last year had a great time and we know this year will be an even bigger success.

You can find the event on facebook: [www.facebook.com/events/612234342251003/](http://www.facebook.com/events/612234342251003/)

## GFWC Williston Junior Woman's Club

The [GFWC Williston Junior Woman's Club](#) had a busy ending to a fabulous year. We hosted our annual Miss Williston pageants for girls ages 4-18 years of age. This year's theme was a fairytale theme where each Miss contestant



represented in modern day clothes during their casual wear. Three beautiful young ladies were selected to represent both our club and community. This is our only club project where 100% of our profit stays within our club.

We also hosted our annual Jingle Bell Jog in December for tiny tots – 5th grade. Each age division started at their assigned starting lines and



jogged to each finish line to be rewarded with a "Jingle Bell." At the completion of all of the runs, we had a surprise visitor - Santa Claus! This project benefits the PE departments of both our local elementary schools.

The GFWC Williston Junior Woman's Club had a fantastic year and are already busy planning projects for 2016. Next up will be our annual Daddy Sweetheart Dance and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

## GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Jacksonville

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Jacksonville created 50+ Valentine goody bags for soldiers serving overseas. The bags included an assortment of candy such as Nerds, Sour Patch Kids, Conversation Hearts, Jolly Rancher Lollipops, M&Ms, Starburst and Muddy Buddies. Each member filled out a Valentine Card with a note thanking them for their service and letting them know they are our heroes! In addition to the Valentine goodies, we sent snacks for care packages. They had beef jerky, gum, nutri bars, raisins and other items from their wish list. If you are interested in doing a project for our soldiers, please visit <http://www.hugsforsoldiers.org/>.





## GFWC Four Corners Junior Woman's Club

The small yet mighty [GFWC Four Corners Junior Woman's Club](#) has been busy since the opening meeting in October 2015. Guest speaker was **Tracy Wynter**, an instructor of Hatha Yoga. Ms. Wynter offered a demonstration of breathing, balance, and relaxation techniques to the attendees. Ms. Wynter teaches at Four Towers Martial Arts in Davenport, where several club members are students in her yoga class.



The Charity Fashion Show and Luncheon was held Friday, November 6, 2015 at Carrabba's Italian Grill on US 192 in Kissimmee (Formosa Gardens location). SteinMart provided the fashions. Members were models for the day. There was a silent auction and raffle. Guest speaker at the show was **Tom Brannigan** of the [Green Bag Project](#), which provides backpacks filled with food for the weekend to schoolchildren in Central Florida. The Green Bag Project also establishes food pantries in local elementary schools.

With proceeds from the annual fashion show, members support two scholarships for seniors in local high schools; The Way Home, a safe haven for women and children; the Green Bag Project, and [Relay for Life](#).

The November general meeting featured guest speaker **Wanda Curtis** of the [Sunshine Foundation Dream Village](#). The Foundation, located in Davenport, provides dream vacations to children between the ages of 3 and 18 and their families. Qualifying children include those with



terminal and chronic illnesses, as well as abused children. **Barbara Goldstein** reported that several club members stuffed Christmas stockings for 16 infants and 84 toddlers to distribute at the La Familia Migrant Center.

In December, club members had an outing to the historic gardens of Bok Tower in Lake Wales and toured the holiday-decorated rooms at Pinewood Estate. The ladies had lunch together and listened to the wonderful carillon concert.

**Mary Blake**, GFWC Florida District 7 Chair, and **Catrina Sistrunk**, Director of Junior Clubs, visited the January 2016 general meeting and judged members' entries for the annual Arts and Crafts show. Club members also learned about [Junior Achievement](#) from guest speaker Shannon Long. Members displayed hats they had designed for donation to children at [St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital](#). This hands-on activity will continue at the February 2016 meeting.

The **GFWC Four Corners Junior Woman's Club** has grown from 22 members to 30 members this year. The club received a grant from GFWC for its membership efforts.



DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS CATRINA SISTRUNK, PRESIDENT GAIL JOHNSTON AND DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR MARY BLAKE

## GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club

The [GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club](#) in conjunction with Hillsborough County Children's Advisory Board raised \$1,533.79 with their Holiday Gift Basket Raffle to purchase holiday gifts for children who reside in Hillsborough County Children's Services. Hillsborough County Children's Services provides residential services to children in foster care, ages 11-17, short-term respite services for ages 10-17, and outpatient counseling for youth ages 7-17.

The raffled gift basket contained donations, including 2 lower level Lightning tickets, champagne, and hand painted champagne glasses donated by Justin Pimenta, as well as 2 hand-crafted bracelets donated by Bourbon and Boweties. MacDintion's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Hyde Park, Tampa graciously hosted the drawing party on December 11, where the winning ticket was drawn and **Kali Kopka** was announced as the winner of the Basket. "The real winners are the kids in the program who will now have some great holiday gifts, despite not being able to be with family during the holidays." said **Diania Pimenta**, President of the GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club. All the women in the GFWC Tampa Junior Woman's Club worked tirelessly for over a month selling tickets to family, friends, and co-workers so that the kids could have holiday gifts.



DELIVERING THE GIFTS TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES CAMPUS

L-R: DONNA JACOBS, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES;  
RHONDA RHODES, CLINICAL DIRECTOR, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES; JONATHAN BURNETT, TREATMENT COUNSELOR,  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES;  
DIANIA PIMENTA, GFWC TAMPA JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

After the drawing Diania Pimenta and **Jonathan Burnett**, a treatment counselor at the program, went on a shopping spree and purchased gifts that the kids listed on their holiday wish list. They purchased 76 gifts with the money raised, which were mostly clothing. Despite all the new technology and games out there, most of the children requested new nice clothing and shoes they could wear to school.





# GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club

## Topgolf Charity Fundraiser

New Tampa Junior's major fundraiser at Topgolf Tampa is just two months away! We already have some very nice silent auction items in, so there will be great deals to be had by all! Some of the items we have so far are: Four Disney Park Hopper passes, a two night stay at the Atlantic Plaza in New Smyrna Beach, a St. Augustine package that includes a night's stay at the Double Tree by Hilton, a \$100 gift card to the Columbia, a \$100 gift card to Ulele, four passes to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and many more! Please try and sell as many tickets as you can to friends and family.

It is a very popular venue and you may be surprised how many people want to go check it out. Tickets will be available for sale at the February meeting for \$75 each and we can accept cash, check or credit card. Attendees at the event will enjoy 3 hours of Topgolf, a buffet dinner, a fabulous silent auction and 50/50 raffle. As a reminder, the event will be held on April 10 from 6-9 PM.

Not familiar with Topgolf? Worried about asking your friends that are non-golfers to attend? No worries; anyone can play Topgolf, from aspiring golf pros to those who have never walked 18 holes. Topgolf statistics show that 85% of their guests are non-golfers and 40% are women. Top golf is a three level golf entertainment facility where players hit micro-chipped golf balls that track each shot's accuracy and distance while awarding points for hitting targets on the outfield. Each bay is fully equipped with men's and women's golf clubs, so no need to bring any clubs. (Left-handed and junior clubs are also available upon request.) There are also several bars onsite as well. We definitely need everyone's help make this event a success!

Tickets available at:

[www.gfwcnewtampajuniors.org](http://www.gfwcnewtampajuniors.org)



### GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Auction & Fundraiser

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Topgolf Tampa  
10619 Palm River Road | Tampa, FL 33619

Event Includes:  
Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Buffet Dinner, and 3 Hours of Golf Play

Tickets are \$75 per person

For more information, please contact Jennifer Lee at  
[president@gfwcnewtampajuniors.org](mailto:president@gfwcnewtampajuniors.org)



Please visit [www.gfwcnewtampajuniors.org](http://www.gfwcnewtampajuniors.org) to learn more about our club!

## GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club

The [GFWC New Tampa Junior Woman's Club](#) dropped off 25 meals January 24 to Tampa's Ronald McDonald House. The meals included: a sandwich from Honey Baked Ham, chips, fruit, veggies with dip, cookies, candy, and drinks. The weekend manager was thrilled with this donation and assured us it would be greatly appreciated from everyone staying at the house. We also dropped off the 100+ snack bags club members assembled at



our December meeting and the soda pop tabs we've collected so far this year. Thank you, **Jenny Rubin** and her husband **Jake** for helping with this project! They were so impressed with the facility, that they're hoping to cook on site for residents one day soon. What a great idea and fun date night! If other members are interested in doing this with your significant other, family, or a group of friends, you can get more info here - <https://rmhctampabay.org/meals/>.



## GFWC South Lake Junior Woman's Club

[GFWC South Lake Junior Woman's Club](#) of Clermont, proudly increased their membership by 41% for the 2015-2016 club year. They did this by hosting their first annual Meet and Greet Tea at a quaint Tea Room in downtown Clermont in August 2015. It was such a success that it is a new tradition that shall be continued for years to come.

Each year they raise money to award at least 2 high school female graduating seniors a \$500 college scholarship. In 2015 they awarded 3 high school students with \$500 each. This year, they expect to be able to award another 3 female students with \$500 each.

They also raise money to provide Christmas gifts for the children registered with the Families in Transition (FIT) program. In January 2016 they partnered with The Pink Bow Foundation in putting together hygiene kits for nearly 1700 homeless high school students in Lake County Florida. Each kit will come with necessities such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, conditioner, floss, and sanitary items for females, disposable razors and much more. Most importantly, they include a positive note giving hope and encouragement. They have placed donation boxes in various businesses around Lake County to aide in making these hygiene kits. They also take time to provide meals to the local fire stations as well as visit at a local assisted living facility.



They meet the 3rd Thursday of each month, in the evening, September to May, and can be reached at [sljuniorwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:sljuniorwomensclub@gmail.com).

Carla Connelly, President





## GFWC FLORIDA

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Neila O'Neill - Managing Editor  
April Simons - Juniors Editor

*Former GFWC FL and GFWC President Jeannine Faubion wrote, "The history of the state would be incomplete without the immeasurable contributions of the thousands of club members, state officers and chairmen whose vision of a better community and state has been made into a reality by their untiring, unselfish work through the years... The gifts of service which they have freely given helped to make Florida what it is today."*



## GFWC Florida

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