



FOCUS



"Come fly with us!"

The Newsletter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut

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www.gfwcct.org

President Nancy Kalyan



Dear Club Members,

It is coming close to a year for this administration. I would like to sincerely and personally **thank** all of you for your constant support, participation and the generosity that you have shown to our programs in GFWC/CT. This past year we have participated in many wonderful events as a State Federation, such as: Sew Comfort Kits for Domestic Abuse, Make a Difference Day for ABRI, the Bronze Sponsorship of the CT Women's Hall of Fame and Woman's Policy Day at the Capital. These events brought help, attention, recognition and publicity to the public on who we are and what we stand for as an organization.

Membership recruitment, retention and new clubs are the keys to this organization's sustainability. They are very important to our State and will enable us to flourish for the coming years. The membership campaigns that have been rolled out in these past few months were well received and you did an excellent job in recruiting over 100 members. A small reminder to all, **you** are the backbone of this organization and without our members, our State could not exist.

At our President's Board meeting in January, Club Presidents reported on a "Project or Program that had the greatest impact in your Club or Community". The many reports from Club Presidents attending that day were very impressive, exciting and creative. What a great job you all have done!

I look forward to attending the anniversaries of some of our clubs and all of our District Days, which are coming up very soon. Your District Directors and Assistant Directors have worked

very hard to put some splendid programs together for that day. I hope that all members in the districts will make a concerted effort to attend. This is the day for all of you to shine, have fun and enjoy meeting all of your fellow club members within your district.

May Convention is just around the corner. "The Call" is included in this Focus issue. I hope that you will consider joining us for that weekend or a day. Our weekend guest, GFWC President-elect Babs Condon, will be the speaker on Saturday. Friday's speaker will be Jon Purmont, the author of "Ella Grasso". Books will be available to purchase, which he will sign that day. Come join us at the Friday night dinner and enjoy a fashion show hosted by "The Little Black Dress". But, most importantly, come see your fellow club members be acknowledged at the Award Presentations for the work they have done this past year.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for the many things that you do to make this a great organization. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you at upcoming events and meetings.

Yours in Federation,
Nancy

NEW STANDING RULE

It was moved, voted and approved by Board members at our March 16th Executive Board Meeting to amend the GFWC/CT Standing Rules and to add the following to your Redbook page 111: Section 5 Finance - to insert an additional line under Meal Reservations. "That any member attending an Executive Board meeting, conference or convention shall incur the full expense of attending the meeting including meal and registration."

**First Vice President
Joan Duffy**

Thank you to all the Club Presidents who reported at the January Board Meeting on the "Project or Program in 2012 that made the greatest impact in your Club or Community". I look forward to meeting all the GFWC/CT members who had such an amazing impact this year at District Days.

**Second Vice President
Helen Barakauskas**

REPORTING

I want to personally thank all of you who participated in the reporting process this year. The club presidents and their able assistants did a great job in reporting their clubs' projects and accomplishments. The Community Service Program and Partnership Chairmen truly excelled at encapsulating the clubs' achievements in their reports to GFWC in Washington. My sisters, we did ourselves proud!

I was totally amazed when I read all of your reports. What wonderful ideas you have and what a difference we make in our communities! Let's share those ideas and accomplishments with each other. As we go forward, I will be asking some of you to highlight your best ideas, either at GFWC/CT meetings or through Constant Contact. We can learn so much from each other and, consequently, grow and prosper in our own communities.

To get us started, let me highlight a program that particularly caught my attention – the Trunk or Treat Project sponsored by our Killingworth club. With the goal of creating a safer Halloween experience for their town's kids, they obtained permission to use a local school's parking lot for the evening and asked the community to participate. Cars were parked with trunks facing a pedestrian area. As kids proceeded through, they were offered treats and were entertained by costumed participants. What a great experience for the kids and parents! And the bonus – charge of

admission for the cars was a non-perishable food item for the town food pantry. If you would like to know more about this fun project, please talk to our Killingworth sisters.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION: We will again be supporting the Arthritis Foundation at our May Convention. Each club has received Arthritis Links to sell for \$1.00 each. These donations will again go to provide Lyme Disease Prevention book-marks to students in Connecticut schools.

As you sell your links, please connect them into a chain and bring the CONNECTED chain to the May convention. Donations you collect should be sent to our treasurer, Georgeann Kishner, and should specify Arthritis Links.

OTHER PROGRAMS: What are your club's interests? What programs would you like to hear more about? Let me know – email me at barkyhd@aol.com or call 860-674-1023.

High School Senior Art Festival



The annual statewide GFWC/CT Senior High School Arts Festival was scheduled for Friday, March 8 through Sunday, March 10. However due to the snowstorm on Friday, delivery of the artwork to Goodwin College in East Hartford had to be moved to Saturday, after which the judging took place.

Under the circumstances, there was a great turnout and it was a very successful show.

ABRI/Homes for the Brave Beverly Regan, Chairman

The members of GFWC/CT have generously supported the needs of the veterans at Homes for the Brave. To date, in-kind donations have totaled \$22,857. Gift certificates totaling \$730 and monetary donations totaling \$800 have been contributed.

The State Project's next initiative is to raise money to pay for the cost of much needed furniture at their residence at Homes for the Brave. Home Depot is volunteering its time and resources to upgrade the kitchen/dining area with new cabinets and counter tops. To complete the upgrade, the original dining area furniture that has received much use and wear needs to be replaced.

Homes for the Brave has selected a company that sells commercial grade furniture that is strong, durable and designed for rugged use. Our goal is to raise money to pay for the cost of this furniture, and possibly other furniture that they need.

The cost of the dining room furniture for their 42 residents is \$7,000. Money that has already been donated will be earmarked for the furniture. This is our opportunity to make a permanent contribution. Homes for the Brave is a refuge for our veterans who seek to improve their lives. This gift will help HFTB to maintain its facility as the need for their services continues to grow.

Contact Information: Beverly, 203-775-2468 or bevregan@gmail.com

2013 Federation Calendar

March 23 District 7 Day
April 3 District 2 Day
April 6 District 4 Day
April 13 District 3 Day
April 16 District 1 Day
April 20 District 6 Day
April 24 Federation Day
April 27 District 5 Day
May 17-18 116th GFWC/CT Annual Convention
 Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT
6/30-7/2 GFWC International Convention
August 10 Board and Summer Orientation
Sept 19-22 104th GFWC New England Region

GFWC/CT Membership "Shoe Shopping" Award

The winner of the GFWC/CT "A Shoe Shopping Campaign" was announced at our January Board Meeting. Marilyn Pearson, president of the Stratford Women's Club, was thrilled and very excited as she heard her name called.

On one of the rainiest days possible, Marilyn, Mischa Campbell, District 2 Director, (standing in for our President Nancy Kalyan) and Sheila Vetter, 3rd Vice President/Membership Chairman, set out to find the best pair of shoes imaginable.

Meeting at Marilyn's choice of shoe store, Jitterbugs in Milford, we three proceeded to "Shop till we Dropped" for Marilyn's new shoes. She chose Jitterbugs as she is a ball room dancer and Jitterbugs sells all types of dance attire. Pictured are the three of us in front of the many different shoe choices, just before we backed up and proceeded to knock down almost all of the shoes on the racks behind us. At first embarrassed, we quickly progressed to hysterical laughter.

Yes, Marilyn found a new pair of dance shoes. She even treated us to a few twirls as she tested them out. Yes, we had a very good time while rewarding a member for actually being "The Sole of the Federation" by sponsoring the most new members during the fall campaign.

This campaign was piggybacked with the GFWC "Fall Seasonal Recruitment Campaign". We salute Marilyn for her dedication to her club, GFWC/CT and GFWC. Well Done!

Assistant Treasurer Pat Kearney

Our membership now stands at 2,171 at the conclusion of the Winter Membership Campaign.

As your Fundraising Chairman, I received reports from 30 clubs. You reported a total of 131 projects and 16,460 volunteer hours. Dollars donated were \$155,107 and in-kind donations amounted to \$22,468.

Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!





*General Federation of Women's Clubs of
Connecticut, Inc.*

**OFFICIAL CALL TO GFWC/CT
MAY CONVENTION**

Nancy Kalyan, President



"Come fly with Us"



MAY 17 & 18, 2013

CROWNE PLAZA, CROMWELL – 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, May 16, 2013

3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 PM Convention Committee Meeting

Friday, May 17, 2013

8:00 AM Registration and Coffee (8-9:30 AM)
8:30 AM Fundraising and Exhibits
9:30 AM CALL TO ORDER of the 116th GFWC/CT Annual Convention
 Opening ceremonies, preliminary report of credentials
 Presentation of convention rules
 Presentation of convention program
 Words of history
 Reports of GFWC/CT Officers
 Community Service Program Awards & Reports
 International Collaboration CSP
 International Partnership CSP
 Communications and Identity
 Pressbook
 Ursula Cassioppo Federation Awareness Award
 WHRC
11:30 AM Recess for Social - Cash Bar
12:00 Noon Lunch

Friday, May 17, 2013 (continued)

12:00-12:45 PM Registration
1:15 PM Speaker: Jon Purmont -Author
2:00 PM Community Service Program Awards
 and Reports
 Fundraising
 Public Issues Partnership CSP
 Public Issues Collaboration CSP
 Veterans Hospitals
 Domestic Violence Awareness &
 Education GFWC Signature Project
 Advocates for Children
 Conservation Partnership CSP
 Conservation Collaboration CSP
 Vancisin Award
3:15PM Recess
 Preview sale for "Little Black Dress"
 Located in the Coach Room 1st FLR
5:30-7:00 PM Registration
6:45 PM Processional forms
7:00 PM Processional
 Banquet
 Greetings from Past State Presidents
8:30-10:00 PM Fashion Show: The Little Black Dress
 Yvonne Turgeon -Announcer/MC
10:00 PM Reception, State Presidents Governor Suite



Saturday, May 18, 2013

7:00 AM Registration and Coffee (7-9:30 AM)

Arts and Crafts Registration COACH RM 1st FLR

No crafts will be accepted after 9:30AM

8:30 AM Fundraising and Exhibits open

9:30 AM Meeting reconvenes

9:30 AM Memorial service

Community Service Program Awards & Reports

Education Collaboration CSP and ESO

Education Partnership CSP

Laurel Girls State

Memorial Scholarships

Home Life Collaboration CSP

Home Life Partnership CSP

Arts Collaboration CSP

Arts Partnership CSP

Naoma Morgenstein Award

Senior High School Arts Festival

Report of Resolutions Committee

Membership

12:00 PM Recess: Social – cash bar

Viewing of Arts & Crafts – Located COACH ROOM & Little Black Dress Sale Room #101 –1st Floor

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Speaker: Babs Condon-GFWC International
President-Elect

2:15 PM Arthritis Links – Sue Nesci

Vice President –Public Policy & Advocacy

Arthritis Foundation

Lafontaine VIP Award

Leadership Awards

State Project

Arts & Crafts Award

Announcements/Raffles

3:15 PM Adjournment

Memorial Service: Club presidents are asked to submit the names of members that have passed away since May, 2012 to Linda Louise LaCasse,,87 Main ST, Somers CT 06790 –860-763-2762–Please forward the names of members, the name of the club, club president name and contact information to Linda *by May12, 2013*.

Arthritis Links: Clubs are asked to bring their Arthritis Links to the registration desk. The Links must be looped and connected before dropping them off.

Door Prizes: Board Members and Clubs are requested to bring a Door Prize with Club or individual name attached. Additional door prizes will be appreciated from clubs with a large number of attendees.

Rooms are available at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell at a GFWC/CT rate of \$104/night plus appropriate fees and taxes. Call 860-635-2000 and ask for House Reservations. Our code is GFQ or GFWC 2013 Deadline is April 16, 2013

Directions to Crowne Plaza, Cromwell ~ 860-635-2000

Take I-91 N or S to EXIT 21. Turn Left off the Exit. Hotel is on the Left.



REGISTRATION AND MEAL FORM GFWC/CT 116th MAY CONVENTION

May 17 & 18, 2013

**** REGISTRATION DEADLINE Friday, May 11, 2013 - ONE FORM PER PERSON - Photocopies accepted ****

NAME _____ Phone _____ Email _____

CLUB _____ Guest _____ District _____

GFWC/CT Board Position _____ Are you a 2012-2014 Club President () Yes () No

REGISTRATION: \$5 for part of / or One Day \$10 for Two Days of Conference \$ _____

MEAL CHOICES:

Friday Lunch - May 17th 12 Noon \$25.00 Please mark your selection \$ _____

- Turkey Club Wrap-Smoked Turkey,Romaine, Tomato,Provolone Cheese,Bacon in a Wheat Pita _____
- Dijon Chicken Wrap- Grilled Chicken,Romaine,Tomato,Parmesan Cheese,Caesar Dressing in a Tortilla _____
- French Connection-Roast Beef,Brie Cheese,Romaine,Tomato,Carmelized onion,Aioli on a Sourdough Baguette _____

Dessert is Strawberry Layer Cake* Plated dessert fruit plate for diabetic guests, coffee & tea

Friday Night Banquet - May 17th 7:00 PM \$ 37.00 Please mark your selection \$ _____

- Grilled Salmon fillet in a Caper Glaze, w/couscous _____
- Stuffed Chicken, with Brie and Sun-Dried Berries, w/roasted potato _____
- Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Cherry-Brandy sauce, w/mashed potato _____

All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, potatoes or rice, assorted rolls & butter

Dessert is Crème Brule Cheese Cake * Plated dessert fruit plate for diabetic guests, coffee & tea

Saturday Lunch - May 18th 12:00 PM \$30.00 Please mark your selection \$ _____

- Grilled Hanger Steak,Whipped Yukon Gold Mashed potatoes _____
- Chicken Franciase, Garlic Mashed Potatoes _____
- Seared Tilapia with fresh mango chutney, Rice Pilaf _____

All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, assorted rolls & butter

Dessert Tuxedo Truffle Mousse Cake* Plated dessert fruit plate for diabetic guests, coffee & tea

Please note Vegetarian or any dietary restrictions _____
TOTAL \$ _____

It would be appreciated if Clubs send all reservations at one time

Make check out for TOTAL payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:

Maureen Fernandes, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, 33 Mechanic Street, Unit 301, Windsor, CT 06095

DISPLAY TABLE RESERVATION FORM

(Photocopies accepted)

Full Table \$15.00 - Half Table \$7.50

Name _____

Club: _____

Please have tables ready by 8:30AM

Make checks payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:

Maureen Fernandes, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, 33 Mechanic Street, Unit 301, Windsor, CT 06095

There is no charge for tables to CSP Chairmen and Committee Chairmen, but registration is required

CLUB NEWS

Northford Women's Club

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, the Northford Women's Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary at Traditions Golf Club in Wallingford at 1:00 p.m. Approximately 75 guests will be in attendance, including present and former club members, GFWC/CT Board members and guests, and North Branford town officials. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro has also been invited. The Northford Women's Club, which was organized and federated in 1963, is a civic organization dedicated to promoting deeper friendships among women of their town and surrounding areas, participating in community service and cooperating with the club work of the Connecticut State Federation of Women's Clubs (a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs).

Greater New Milford Woman's Club



The Woman's Club of Greater New Milford held its second Hungry Hungry Hip Rolls food bank fundraiser in February. Kathy Henkel, Fitness, donated time and studio space to offer a Belly Dance Fitness class that was open to the public. The club charged \$15 or \$10 with a non-perishable food donation for admission and held a raffle of belly dance related items. All of the donations and 100% of the proceeds went to the New Milford Food Bank. Members and guests had a great time. The food bank was grateful for the donation, especially since there was a drop in donations after the holidays.

Farmington Valley Woman's Club

In 1998, Vera Hemphill noticed in the newspaper that UConn Health Center was requesting baby clothes for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and pillows for cancer patients. Vera's husband was the first open-heart surgery patient at UCHC and she felt that responding to the hospital's request would be a good way to express her gratitude and thankfulness. On her own, Vera made over 600 items that first year for premature babies and cancer patients.

Vera's efforts are now supported by fellow members of the FVWC. As chairman of the Club's Cutters and Sewers group, Vera regularly gathers members together at her home to cut and sew. The FVWC contributes to the cost of the fabric. Since 1998, 2,107 comfort hats, 886 pillows, 1,480 baby pajamas and gowns, and 821 flannel blankets have been donated to UCHC!

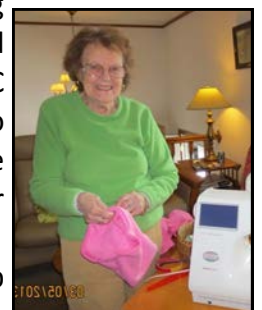
The Cutters and Sewers group was founded by one woman, Vera Hemphill, who for 15 years has scouted fabric stores, laundered fabric, cut and



sewn patterns, and packaged and delivered items to the hospital. Vera continues to be the force behind the work she and the FVWC do to provide baby gowns, comfort hats, pillows, and blankets to the hospital. The members of the Farmington Valley Woman's Club share with Vera the satisfaction that comes from contributing and helping others.

Vera is pictured by her sewing machine at a recent cutters and sewers group meeting. Six FVWC members joined her that day to cut and sew items that they hope will comfort babies and cancer patients.

The Cutters and Sewers group is one example of the activities the GFWC/Farmington Valley Woman's Club undertakes in support of community projects.



GFWC/CT Membership Update Form

Rules for Membership Update Form

Please list all new or transferred members who have joined your club since filling the last update form.

- Circle "N" if she is new or has rejoined after one year.
- Circle "T" if she is a transfer from another club.
- List the name of the member who referred her to the club.
- Remit \$17 dues per member, payable to GFWC/CT.

Send form and dues to the Assistant Treasurer:

Pat Kearney
45 Riverside Drive
Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: 203-431-3863
E-mail: patkearney45@yahoo.com

Be Legible Please!

Club Name: _____

Person completing form: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

N - T

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Referred by: _____