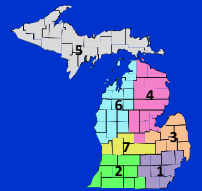




# GFWC Michigan NEWSLETTER

Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs since 1895



January 15 2015

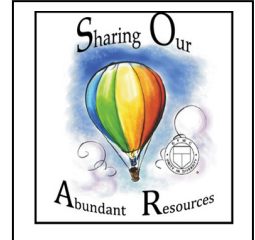
Sharing Our Abundant Resources

Chris Burns, Editor



Happiest of New Years to you all,

We are starting this year off right with information for you about this year's Convention at the GR Hilton Hotel. Registration information is here because there is an April 1 deadline and the March Newsletter would be too late. **Read at the end of this document and jump on board early! Be sure to share it with club members.**



Chris & Bob Burns will be updating our GFWC MI Yearbook for next year. I will be collecting corrections or changes & will get them to you via email. Please take a minute to look at your book – **compare it with the corrected on-line version** - THEN let me know what you find that is out of order. Thanks!

### **WORTH REPEATING, REMINDERS and GOOD THINGS TO KNOW:**

- Remember to send your 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Susan ([desnoyersllc@charter.net](mailto:desnoyersllc@charter.net)) and Memorial Chairman Margie Carter ([Mcartner801@yahoo.com](mailto:Mcartner801@yahoo.com)) the names of the deceased members of your clubs. Their phone & cell numbers are in the yearbook! Susan and Margie will coordinate their lists so that no one is left out.
- AND, don't forget to select the 2014 Ms. Federation using the criteria in your Yearbook. Then send your choices with the write up to me ([franleonard@charter.net](mailto:franleonard@charter.net)) and to Carolyn Bailey, Chairman ([annie5174@gmail.com](mailto:annie5174@gmail.com)). It is so important for Carolyn to get the information as early as possible so the program can be prepared, medals ordered, etc. Carolyn and I will coordinate our lists so no one is missed!
- New Date - mark your calendars now for **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Legislation Day** is being finalized and will be a great event. Darlene Berent, our chairman, has been working real hard with her committee so it should be a good one. More information will be forthcoming.
- Recapping for you an article from the January 10<sup>th</sup> GFWC News & Notes. It is also an enticement for National Convention in June:

“GFWC & St. Jude: An amazing opportunity awaits you in Memphis, TN during the 2015 GFWC National Convention. The world-renowned [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) & our convention hotel, the Sheraton Memphis Downtown are separated by a mere two blocks. So, our two organizations are going to team us as we look ahead to Memphis in June. St. Jude has offered its time by hosting a panel forum during the State Night Banquet, its support through donated decorations and its campus for tours. There is also a specially designed fundraiser with GFWC in mind. With our special ties to public libraries and literacy, St. Jude is offering a reading fundraiser which National is calling “Read for Research”. Be sure to check out the latest Clubwoman magazine issue for more information “

*Fran*

Email: [franleonard@charter.net](mailto:franleonard@charter.net)  
Phone: 616-828-7707

#### 125 Days to 125 Years

The celebration started December 20, 2014. In addition to some special events there are special Market-place items, the release of 125<sup>th</sup> Federation Facts and an unveiling of the new and limited edition stone encrusted 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin. More news coming from News 'n Notes. Let the Celebration Begin!

#### Calendar

Jan. 15	GFWC MI Newsletter published
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 20	MI Board Tele-Conference
Feb. 1	Club Reports Due to: Pres. Fran & 1 <sup>st</sup> VP Donna
Feb. 1	EYES Published
Feb. 16	President's Day
Feb. 17	Ed Foundation Board Tele-Conference
Mar. 1	EYES Published
Mar. 10	GFWC MI Newsletter articles to Chris
April 16	GFWC MI Board meeting
April 17	19, 2015 - 120 <sup>th</sup> GFWC MI Convention – Grand Rapids



## *Keeping Our Ion Reporting* Donna Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



### **SO WHY REPORT?**

As I write this article, most of you are finalizing your 2014 reports of club activities.

Before, during, and following this reporting process many of you ask the question, “So Why Report? First, you all do amazing volunteer work for your communities and the world. GFWC International and GFWC Michigan encourages all clubs to report their time, dollars, and efforts with the Community Service Programs, Special Projects, and Advancements. Here are reasons why:

- Without your reports and narratives no one will know what great things our State Federation does.
- Reports are a diary of a club’s activities during a year by providing a picture of the achievements of the club and the accomplishments of individual members.
- Reports are more detailed than minutes of meetings and include activities outside of club meetings.
- Reports are the heart and soul of a club’s history, reflecting the concerns and interests of club members at a particular point in time and over time.

### **Use your reports, don’t just file them away!**

- Reports can be the basis of a publicity campaign a club might wish to do, illustrating what the club is doing at the moment which encourages community involvement.
- Reports help members plan activities knowing what was or wasn’t successful in the past.
- Reports are useful for membership recruitment, allowing potential members to gain a realistic picture of the club’s purposes and how it works within the community.
- Reports assist clubs when writing grants, as they provide the history of the club’s activities that is needed.

### **And**

- Reports are necessary to compete for awards recognition within the district, state and international levels of GFWC. After all, aren’t you proud of your club’s accomplishments?
- Reports provide critical statistical information to help GFWC advocate issues to Congress, to governmental agencies, and other organizations with mutual concerns.
- Yes, reports do provide critical statistical information to help GFWC procure financial support from foundations, corporations and partnerships. And dollars do come back to clubs in the forms of grants and awards.
- And reports greatly enhance the full perspective of your club and GFWC’s community and world impact.

Your reporting efforts do not go unnoticed within GFWC Michigan and GFWC International after all! You are so valued and appreciated for all the work you do and that includes reporting.

Remember you are the best! We are GFWC Michigan! *Donna*

**Donna Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

[donnabrown21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donnabrown21@sbcglobal.net) / 269-948-2790

***NOTE: There is an error on page 4 of the GFWC Michigan Statistical Report Form under the Fundraising and Development column. The Heading mistakenly reads “Dollars Spent” – the correct heading should read “Dollars Raised”. Please be sure and enter your club’s dollars raised.***

## Membership



From your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Congratulations to all the Districts and to all the clubs that participated in our Fall Membership Campaign. The club recording the most new members during that campaign was GFWC Menominee with 15. A big “shout out” to Judy Reid, their Membership Chairman and to the club for all their work!

As for the Horse Race, I will tell you all the Districts are “Hot to Trot”. The figures are in as of December 31, 2014 and each District had a membership increase from the start of the Campaign. The horses are listed in their position on the race track based on the percentage increase of the overall membership.

1. Sergeant Reckless – Northwestern District – 9.80 %
2. Stirrup Members - West Central District – 7.60%
3. Southwestern Belle – Southwestern District – 5.88%
4. Mo’ Members – Southeastern District - 3.75%
5. EC Rider – East Central District – 3.57%
6. Northern Flyer - Northeastern District – 3.55%
7. Northern Lights – Upper Peninsula District - 1.75%

No matter what the position your horse is in, all the Districts should be proud of their increase and the race is nowhere near the end.

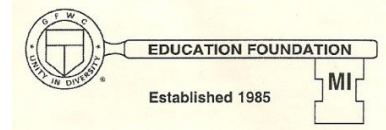
The Winter Membership Campaign is well underway and I have been receiving more new member forms. Keep up the good work and keep those horses moving.

Remember it’s not just about getting new members, it’s also about keeping the new members along with the existing ones you have. As for the new members, get them involved immediately. That is why they joined – to be involved. Their sponsor should also be their mentor making sure they feel welcome and a part of the club and its activities. For the existing members, they need to be acknowledged and feel appreciated for their continued work and involvement in and for the club. Remember a “thank you” and a sign of appreciation means a lot to your members and gives them another reason to stay involved.

When you send in the new member forms please remember to put the date the new member joined on the form. As some of the clubs are still not using the original form (everyone should be using the new form which is on the website), make sure all the requested information is submitted.

Again, congratulations to all the Districts and stay “Hot to Trot for Membership”.

## GFWC MI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Many of our clubs support the Education Foundation by donating to the Scholarship Fund, by honoring someone with a page in our Commemorative Books, or by donating items for the Michigan Basket.

Another personal way you should consider to support GFWC MI Education Foundation is to leave a legacy *now* for *tomorrow*. Your planned gift can help the MI GFWC Education Foundation provide scholarships to GFWC members for generations to come.

Designate the Education Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Your legacy will enable us to extend our mission for the good of future GFWC members. For more information, call Jerena Keys at 231-796-3140 or send an email to [jerena@unitedchurchbr.org](mailto:jerena@unitedchurchbr.org).

Karen Krumm, Foundation President

[krummk@msn.com](mailto:krummk@msn.com) / 989-786-4602

## EDUCATION CSP



Are you ready for reporting? I hope so because I want to be able to share all the wonderful and creative programs that our Michigan clubs have sponsored in 2014 with our GFWC sisters around the country. Don't forget that this year GFWC is very interested in compiling statistics on the amount of scholarship money that was awarded by our clubs so be sure to include the amount of the scholarships you awarded in your narratives.

Karen Krumm, CSP Chairman

[krummk@msn.com](mailto:krummk@msn.com) / 989-786-4602

## EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)



All our ESO members know what to do on these cold winter days—curl up with a good book. If you love to read, consider becoming an ESO member. To become a member, first request a pledge application from your club ESO chairman or send a request to me and I will send you one. After reading 16 books, a pledge becomes an ESO member. There are no time requirements, simply read at your own pace.

The motto of Epsilon Sigma Omicron is “Enlighten Your Own Pathway.” I hope many of our GFWC Michigan clubwomen join ESO and start down their own path of enlightenment.

Karen Krumm, Chairman

[krummk@msn.com](mailto:krummk@msn.com) / 989-786-4602

**Winter Address: 395 S. Crow Creek Dr., #2307, Calabash, NC 2867**

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## LEADERSHIP

GFWC MI 2015 Leaders are now Here!

- ✓ Promote to all club members the knowledge that they are all unique and add value to every aspect of your club - VERY IMPORTANT!
- ✓ Always use more than one person (not the same one person all the time) to complete a task! This forms relationships, creates teamwork, installs knowledge of programs, makes things more efficient, and saves time.
- ✓ Build a team of **Oneness** ~ strength and dependence
- ✓ As a tree will not be strong if not fed, so will a club not survive if not fed.
- ✓ Look at all members of your club - **Build** with their strengths and GFWC MI will not only survive but will be strong with pride

Joyce Iltis, Leadership Chairman

[joyiltis@gmail.com](mailto:joyiltis@gmail.com)/231-796-0860

## **Taken—Plot vs. Reality** **by Tiffany Vojnovski**

Thanks to the “Taken” movie franchise, now in its third incarnation, many Americans have at least a basic understanding of the issue of human trafficking. The original film, released in 2008, has certainly succeeded in raising awareness of how organized criminals operate human trafficking networks, as well as the brutal treatment of the women and girls who become their prey. However, the action-packed storyline can also foster misconceptions about human trafficking: the impression that trafficking is perpetrated only by “foreigners” against Americans; that any victim with a loving—and extremely resourceful—family could be recovered; or that survivors can walk away from their experience, unscathed and untrammelled, as if it were all a bad dream. One might even be inclined to blame the victims—after, all the entire catastrophe could have been avoided if Kim and Amanda, the characters in “Taken,” had not shared a taxi with the handsome stranger in the first place.

To correct this misconception, it is critical to understand the methods predators use to ally themselves with victims in order to gain, and exploit, their trust. At airports, bus stations, train stations, even amusement parks and concerts, these recruiters approach young women, as friends or potential love interests, always with the objective to lure them off the premises and into captivity. Often, recruiters are near the same age as their victims; and are attractive and sophisticated enough to cause even a normally wary teen to let down her guard. Though most girls are wise enough to resist solicitation from an older, obviously “creepy” individual, it can be difficult to recognize a peer as a predator.

Moreover, these recruiters, though low on empathy, are extremely skilled at reading and exploiting the insecurities of the young women they target. Especially vulnerable are girls traveling alone, suffering from poverty, or those who are visibly bruised from abuse or self-inflicted injury. By offering the victim what she most needs at that moment—money, a listening ear, a doting boyfriend, a father figure—the predator gains the victim’s trust and becomes indispensable to her. In some cases, he may be the first person to treat her kindly, tell her she is pretty, or validate her feelings. Needing an ally, she believes that his intentions are genuine. She feels no suspicion when he offers her an opportunity to “work abroad” or “travel” with him. She gives up her passport and other identification in the belief that he is making immigration and travel arrangements. It is only after she has divested herself of her identity and proof of citizenship that she realizes she has been trapped. In Kim and Amanda’s case, they arrive in Paris brimming with excitement and obviously hungry for experience. Though they are affluent, bubbly, and confident, they are outsiders in terms of language, culture, and life experience. Peter makes them feel sophisticated

and adult with his flirting and invitation to a party: a promising start to the romance and excitement they sought from their trip to Europe.

Disenfranchised women—in the United States and abroad—are vulnerable for different reasons. Both in small towns with scant resources and employment and in large cities with high rents and fierce competition, numerous recruiters canvass, seeking women and girls who have little to lose and are willing to relocate to a different area—or a different country—for work. The opportunity to earn a better income abroad is particularly attractive when other family members depend on a young woman as a sole or partial breadwinner. Compounding these conditions, many trafficking victims come from cultures that devalue women's contributions to society and offer them little education that prepares them for skilled work or the professions. In countries with high unemployment and a poor economy, legitimate work-abroad programs are popular with young people. The jobs described by traffickers sound identical on the surface: year-long stints as waitresses, shot girls, factory or farm workers, or au pairs. Of course, victims do not realize that they have been tricked into forced prostitution until after they have turned over their documents—and sometimes, not until they arrive in a new country.

Though "Taken" delivers a partially happy ending, the reality is much bleaker for most trafficked girls and women. Obviously, most lack a CIA-trained protector who has the means and ability to follow them across borders and infiltrate their captors' hideouts; ultimately, very few of the world's 1.92 million victims of sex trafficking will be rescued. In "Taken," this reality is eclipsed by the focus on Liam Neeson's character and his superhuman efforts—and triumph—in recovering his own daughter. Yet in spite of the carefully choreographed fight scenes and Neeson's flawless stunts, the most resonant images in the film are those used as backdrop for the main plotline: drugged girls on cots in a trailer, men lined up outside with numbers outside, as the hero searches for his daughter. Each one of these girls is someone's daughter; many are also someone's mother, or sister, or best friend. Each was a little girl once, full of promise and hope and curiosity. Each could be a protagonist in herself.

*Join the campaign to protect these young women at GFWC Michigan's  
Legislation Day at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing on Monday, May 11, 2015*

...During this time, we will discuss the need for severe penalties for human traffickers and support for Michigan's trafficking victims and survivors, with our lawmakers in Lansing. Please save the date and watch for additional updates in future editions of the newsletter.

Darlene Berent, Chairman  
Legislation and Public Policy

[deberent@comcast.net](mailto:deberent@comcast.net) / 586-436-6713

## Northwestern District Has a New Project!

Sometimes opportunity strikes when we least expect it and that is what happened to our District and more specifically, to three of our Club members as they traveled to the Guiding Harbor auction in November. Joyce Iltis, Sue Johnson and Ann Stellard decided to stop in Rockford for breakfast and visit the WAR Chest Boutique. The WAR Chest Boutique is the retail arm of the non-profit organization Women At Risk, International, for which W.A.R. is an acronym. It includes an online boutique, 3 retail stores, and WAR Int'l product parties held in homes, businesses and churches throughout the U.S. Women At Risk, International (WAR, Int'l) is a Grand Rapids-based, nonprofit organization, established to create circles of protection around at-risk women and children. Through culturally sensitive, value-added intervention projects and partnerships, they provide safe places to heal from abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and more. Their programs and partnerships span the globe, reaching over 40 countries, including the United States.



While shopping in the Boutique, they observed a conversation between the store clerk and another customer. It seems this customer had won \$100 the prior year at some type of event and decided to use the money to help others. So she purchased fabric, made a gorgeous quilt (the picture cannot do it justice). She brought it to the Boutique to donate for sale. But...she was told they could not accept the quilt because they only sold items made by women who are or have been at risk. The woman was obviously disappointed. And that is when Joyce and the group stepped in, explaining about GFWC and our interest in the issue of human trafficking. So the woman gave the quilt to the group with the promise that they would figure out a way to turn the quilt into funds for WAR. Traveling on, the threesome told their story to Fran Leonard and Chris Burns. And so the idea to have a statewide raffle started to take shape. One problem – GFWC MI does not qualify for a raffle license. So a club would have to make application. Then when to hold the raffle – how about in Grand Rapids next spring at the State Convention – inviting the quilt maker and a WAR representative. After further discussion it was agreed this should be included as part of the Northwestern District Special Project on human trafficking. GFWC-Big Rapids has secured the license. Each District in the state is being asked to sell tickets along with the clubs in the Northwestern District. What a wonderful way for the women of GFWC MI to support our “sisters” who are at risk and in need of our help.

**Dee Van Horn, President**  
Northwestern District

[deevanhorn@centurytel.net](mailto:deevanhorn@centurytel.net) / 231-972-5737

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## News from West Central District

To the wonderful women of the West Central District, my apologies! I submitted my November report late; I'm still getting used to the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month deadline! So here is a report from last fall and into the winter! And by the sight outside my window, winter is indeed here!

GFWC Edmore started their club year in October with a presentation from the WCD Officers. WCD Vice President Karen Merchant, Secretary Peg Fell, and Treasurer Elinor Weisgerber shared a program that

explained GFWC from the top down to the clubs. They also talked about the part the local club plays in the GFWC world. There wouldn't be a GFWC if it weren't for the local clubs working hard to make a difference in their communities. The officers were very well received and everyone had a great time. That night the Edmore women learned that the goal of refurbishing the community park in nearby McBride was nearing completion. They had played a big part in helping with this project and are going to purchase a bench for the park with the GFWC Edmore name on it. They are very proud of their efforts.

The GFWC Edmore November meeting dealt with the very important topic of Human Trafficking. Senator Judy Emmons was their speaker. She has sponsored many bills in the state legislature that have been passed dealing with this topic. This is an emotional topic and the women were very moved by the presentation. The club members came dressed in pajamas and a pajama fashion show was held. The door prize winner for the evening won "pajamas in a bag" from the WAR (Women At Rick) boutique in Rockford. A donation of \$50 was made to WAR by the club.

December brought the GFWC Edmore women's annual Christmas meal and gift exchange. After a short but to the point meeting President Beth had us form a circle with the present that we brought on our lap. A story about Christmas was read. Every time the word left or right was mentioned, along with a number, we had to pass our gift according to the direction given in the story. We laughed and passed the gifts left and then right. Finally the story ended and the gift on your lap was yours. It was great fun. Following that we sang Christmas songs. What a fun time for the ladies of Edmore and for me!

I am planning on featuring a different club in each newsletter so look forward to updates from GFWC Caledonia in my next newsletter. Please take a moment to count your blessings; keep love in your heart, and share it every day!

**Karen Merchant, Vice President**  
West Central District

[kmerchant2000@gmail.com](mailto:kmerchant2000@gmail.com) / 616-522-1495

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**A special note from Fran Leonard, GFWC MI President**

*Dear Members,*

*Many of you know Sister Sue Tracy from Spectrum Health and previous speaker at our conventions and other events. She was scheduled to speak at the Saturday evening Banquet of Convention on April 18<sup>th</sup>. I received a call from her today saying that she has had a major setback to her cancer and must cancel her spring engagements. She now has the cancer in her brain and there are many chemo and radiation treatments ahead of her. She, of course, apologized profusely for letting us down but I assured her that her health far out-weighed our needs and we just wanted her to take care of herself and try to beat this. So, I am asking for your prayers on her behalf. Certainly, if there is more news I will get it to you right away.*

*Thank you,  
Fran*





**General Federation of Women's Clubs Michigan  
120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
April 17 – 19, 2015**



**Registration Form  
(Please fill out one form for each member attending)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ARTICLE XVII REPRESENTATION**

Section 1. Each club holding active membership, dues paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current fiscal year, and having a membership of:

- (a) Category 1: 1 – 20 members shall be allowed one delegate;
- (b) Category 2: 21- 40 members shall be allowed two delegates;
- (c) Category 3: 41 – 99 members shall be allowed three delegates;
- (d) Category 4: 100+ members shall be allowed four delegates plus one delegate for every additional 50 members
- (e) County Federations, dues paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current fiscal year, may be represented by one delegate who shall be a member of a club holding active membership in GFWC Michigan.

**ARTICLE XVIII VOTING BODY**

Section 1. At all meetings of GFWC Michigan voting shall be restricted to delegates, or in their absence, their registered alternates, from clubs or society's belonging to GFWC Michigan, whose dues are paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current fiscal year, and members of the Board of Directors of GFWC Michigan, Chairmen of Community Service Programs and other Programs, Standing and Special Committees and Past GFWC Michigan Presidents and Past Junior Directors.

**(A member holding 2 or more offices, chairmanships, or voting privileges carrying a vote shall be limited to vote only in one of the offices, chairmanships, or positions with voting privileges that are held by said member, in other words, one person, one vote.)**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Past State Pres.\Jr. Director \_\_\_\_\_ State\Advisory Board \_\_\_\_\_

Club President \_\_\_\_\_ Club Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Non Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ First Time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (entire weekend)	\$25.00	_____
Daily Fee (if attending one day)	\$14.00	_____
Late Fee (past the deadline)	\$25.00	_____
Meals (total pg. 2)		_____

Total Meals and Registration \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline is April 1, 2015**

Please make check payable to: **GFWC Michigan**

Please mail registration and Meal Registration Form to: **Connie Hopkins, GFWC MI Treasurer  
309 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ewart, MI 49631  
231-734-3970 - home**

General Federation of Women's Clubs Michigan  
120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
April 17 – 19, 2015

Meal Registration Form

Name _____	Club _____	District _____
<b>Friday, April 17, 2015</b>		
Lunch – Spinnaker Club Wrap		\$17.00 _____
Ms Federation Banquet		
Parmesan Whitefish <u>or</u>		\$22.00 _____
Chicken Oscar		\$22.00 _____
<b>Saturday, April 18, 2015</b>		
Lunch – Assorted Petite Sandwich Buffet		\$20.00 _____
Banquet		
Chicken Romano <u>or</u>		\$22.00 _____
Braised Top Round		\$22.00 _____
<b>Sunday, April 19, 2015</b>		
Hilton Breakfast Buffet		\$18.00 _____
		<b>Total</b> _____

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

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Please fill out one form for each person requiring meals.

Due to the Privacy Act, please fill out Emergency Medical form available on line at [gfwcmi.com](http://gfwcmi.com) or at the registration table.

**Hotel Registration Deadline is April 1, 2015**

The room rates are \$93.00 + taxes per night for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This rate applies to a single room, double/double and a king room. The cutoff date is April 1, 2015. Check in time is 3:00pm and check out is 12:00pm.

Room reservations can be made by calling 616-957-0100 by Wednesday, April 1, 2015. They must identify themselves as members of GFWC Michigan and use the group code: GFWC. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card.

Online Reservations: Reservations can also be made via a Personalized Group Web Page customized for your group. **Your web page address is:**

[http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/G/GRRHIHF-GFWC-20150415/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/G/GRRHIHF-GFWC-20150415/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Hilton Grand Rapids Airport, 4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**GFWC Michigan contacts are:**

Karen Merchant, State Convention Chairman – [kmerchant2000@gmail.com](mailto:kmerchant2000@gmail.com) / 616-522-1495

Pat Kreple, Local Co-Chairman – [pkreple@gmail.com](mailto:pkreple@gmail.com) / 269-795-4540

Terri Starr, Local Co-Chairman – [t1starr@charter.net](mailto:t1starr@charter.net) / 269-672-5282

## **FYI**

### **Convention Information**

The 120<sup>th</sup> State Convention of GFWC MI will be held April 17 – 19, 2015 at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel and Convention Center in Grand Rapids. The Southwestern District is excited to welcome all of our club sisters to this wonderful weekend of learning, fun and fellowship.

The convention registration form and the meal registration form are included in this newsletter. Also included is a detailed description of the meals and their cost.

All rooms needed for our convention have been reserved. The layout of the Hilton creates a convenient area for our convention. The Hospitality Room, Decorations, Registration and many other areas are being handled by the women of Southwestern District.

The hotel registration information is included on the meal registration form. Both meal and hotel reservations are due by April 1, 2015.

Southwestern District women in charge of registration appreciate that GFWC MI Treasurer Connie Hopkins will be sending registration information weekly. This way they can make the registration materials as they come in. Thanks, Connie!

Friday night will be our Ms Federation Ceremony. Carolyn Bailey is chairing this event and will be decorating the tables and making the booklets. To help celebrate there will be a reception following the ceremony. We always like to honor these women of GFWC MI.

“Put Your Irish On” for our Saturday night banquet. The band “Paddy’s Cure” will be our guests and our entertainment! Be ready to enjoy a delicious meal followed by “Irish Delicacies” for dessert. After our meal the band will fill our evening with lots of great music. Dancing, laughing, sharing are all on the docket for a wonderful evening.

Southwestern District is requesting 2 door prizes from each club. This request will be included in the official Call.

There is no special tour scheduled for Thursday. Instead, there will be detailed information on lots of places to visit in the Grand Rapids area. The hotel is also very close to some great shopping malls.

A big “Thank You” goes out to Terri Starr, Pat Kreple, and Becky Devenney for all of their support as we plan this convention. I thank President Fran Leonard for asking me to chair this event. Her support has been, and continues to be, a real source of encouragement. Donna Brown and Sue Johnson have also been very enthusiastic and helpful as we plan this event together.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Grand Rapids next spring. It is going to be a wonderful convention celebrating the wonderful women of GFWC MI.

Thank you,  
Karen Merchant, GFWC MI 2015 State Conv. Chr [kmerchant2000@gmail.com](mailto:kmerchant2000@gmail.com) / 616.522.1495