



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

**OFFICIAL CALL TO 126th GFWC/CT
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Katherine DeBurra, State President; GFWC/CT 2022-2024



Individually we are one wave, together we are an ocean!

*May Convention is dedicated to **PEACE**.*



Saturday, May 20, 2023

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut is honored to have as our guest for this Convention-

Wendy Carriker, GFWC First Vice-President.

Friday May 19, 2023

Our Esteemed Guest Wendy Carriker; GFWC First Vice-President arrives at Bradley Airport at approximately 11:00 AM.

Lunch stop en route to...

2:00 PM Visit to Ukrainian Museum & Library in Stamford. The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford is the oldest cultural institution established by Ukrainians in North America. It is dedicated to the collection, documentation, preservation and exhibition of artifacts and publications dealing with Ukrainian culture and heritage. By making its resources available for study and research it continues to share knowledge about Ukraine and the ethnic community in the United States. 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902

**All Members are invited and encouraged to attend the visit to the Museum.
Please register - as a courtesy to the Museum.**

**May Convention; Saturday, May 20, 2023;
Hyatt House, 830 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484**

9:00 AM Convention Registration, Fundraising, Chairmen Exhibits, Photography Contest.

New England Region Legislative/Public Policy Chairman; Debbie Fiore will set up a lap top assisting anyone who would like to update their registration in the Legislative Action Center. The Legislative Action Center (LAC) is a direct link to Congress and is the primary tool that GFWC uses to educate and mobilize its members to receive updates on specific legislation that GFWC is supporting. These updates let Members know when to contact their national legislators about a bill. Additionally, GFWC's advocacy efforts also help to raise awareness of GFWC as an organization!

Anyone registering will receive a reward!

9:30 AM Call to Order of the 126th GFWC Connecticut Annual Convention.

Opening Ceremonies, Preliminary Reports, Credentials Report, Presentation of Convention Rules.

Memorial Service: Maddy Marzullo. Please see notation on registration*

Greetings from Wendy Carriker; GFWC First Vice-President.



Reports of GFWC/CT Officers-to include:

Approve and Endorse Deborah Fiore as NER Secretary for 2024-2026.
This action has been approved by the Executive Committee. NER Standing Rules ask that a willing candidate be endorsed at the State Convention this year, as stated below.

Eligibility: Candidates for office shall:

- a. Be a Member of a club in active membership in the Region.***
- b. First have served as State President, if no candidate is available, then second would be a Past State Director of Junior Clubs and third would be a Past State Officer. If there are not candidates for that State, then a candidate from one of the other states, not represented, may be considered following Article IV Section 9. Vacancies.***
- c. Shall have stated her consent to serve if elected.***
- d. Each candidate shall be endorsed by her state. The endorsement shall be obtained at the State Convention assembled in the odd-numbered year or in the absence of such previously identified convention by the endorsement of 2/3 of the clubs in the state Federation. Endorsement shall be properly documented.***

- 11:00 AM Brunch; Friendship Time, Fundraising and Exhibits.**
BYOB-Bring your own book! Not what you think...
Exchange a book with a friend for a summer reading adventure.
GFWC/CT Jeopardy will be set up for a friendly challenge during brunch!
- 12:30 PM Awards. Photography Contest Winners. Gavels, etc.**
By-laws Committee Report. See attached as sent out in the March Call.
Beverly Regan, Scholarship Chairman; Memorial Scholarships Award Winners .
Exercise Contest Awards announced for Sheila Macauley;
As a service project please bring a card or hand written message to our Ukraine Women's Club to let them know we are thinking of them. Sheila loved to send letters and cards to uplift others and to honor that memory, as written in her obituary-I will mail them to Switzerland where they are currently housed until the war is over. THANK YOU for your kindness and thoughtfulness in honor of Sheila.
- 2:00 PM Patty Meglio; Arts & Culture Chairman; Have you ever wanted to write a book?**
Patty just completed a wonderful one and she will share with us the journey to publishing.
- NERC Update – Donna Farrell, NERC Convention Chairman.**
Other Business.
- Fundraising & Announcements.**
- 3:00 PM Adjournment & Photo Opportunity with**
GFWC First Vice-President Wendy Carriker.

Wendy flies out from Bradley Airport this evening at approximately 7:00 PM.
Safe travels and thank you for visiting Connecticut Wendy!

As in the March Call I'd like to write -A MOST SINCERE thank you to Pam Lerner;

Assistant Treasurer who does a megastar job with collecting dues, registrations, compiling lists, nametags and sorting all of it out with a beautiful smile and attitude!

Please be timely sending your registrations! THANK YOU!



**GFWC/CT Convention Reservation Form for the 126th Annual Convention
Saturday, May 20, 2023**

Hyatt House, 830 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 10, 2023!

Please sign up timely!

Registration: \$10.00 Brunch: \$35.00 Total: \$45.00

**Brunch Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, Muffins, Danish, Fruit,
Yogurt, Granola, Mixed Green Salad, Pasta Primavera, Chicken Marsala. Bread & Butter.**

Coffee, Tea, Juice and Water included.

(Coffee, Tea & Water available at the hotel 24 hours daily.)

Name _____

Club _____

District: (circle 1) NC NW SE SW

Any Dietary Restrictions: _____

GFWC/CT Executive Board Position:

Are you a 2022-2024 Club President? Yes _____ No _____ (See message below) *

Will you be attending the Visit to Ukrainian Museum & Library in Stamford.

Yes _____ No _____

***No table charge to CSP Chairman or Committee Chairman, however,
registration is required by deadline above please. May 10.***

Mail Meeting & Table Registrations to:

Pam Lerner, 20 Brenton Terrace, Hamden, CT 06518

Contact Info: Phone: 203-281-3090 or pamlern41044@aol.com

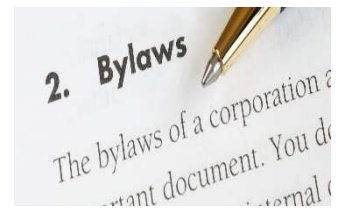
Checks made out to GFWC/CT

Half Table \$5.00 - Full Table \$10.00

Name _____ **Club** _____

Email _____

***Memorial Service – Club Presidents are asked to submit the names of members who have passed away between May 23, 2022 thru May 2023 to Maddy Marzullo at maddymarz2@gmail.com or 860-689-4395. Please submit Club Name, Club sister's name, her passing date, if known the year she joined the club and/or how many years in club. Also, a short blurb about her involvement in her Club and Club President's name.**



Proposed Bylaws, Standing Rules Changes:

As included in the March Call , we will vote on this on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

Thank you to Kathy Barnes; First VP, the Bylaws Committee and all the Members who researched, worked on this and or suggested an update to this area of the bylaws.

To: GFWC/CT Bylaws Committee

From: Kathy Barnes, GFWC/CT First VP

Date: 12/13/22

Having observed membership levels and attendance at State meetings as well as speaking with potential Club leaders, I request that the Committee move forward with the following two changes regarding quorum and meeting frequency. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. Thank you for working to make a stronger Federation in the future.

Article IV. Section E.

5. A quorum for a meeting of the State Federation shall be represented by ~~50~~ **30** qualified delegates consisting of at least 10% of the Executive Board and qualified delegates representing at least 10% of the clubs and 50% of the Districts.

Rationale: The current number of delegates required for quorum at Fall Conference and May Convention was defined when the State Federation was 300% of its current size. This does not reduce the number of Clubs or Districts to be represented ensuring state wide participation.

Article VIII. Section B. The Executive Board shall act upon the admission of clubs, establish standing rules which it may rescind or amend by a two-thirds vote of those present, make appropriations, raise such money as may be necessary and plan and execute such measures as are required to coordinate the activities of the member clubs.

1) Executive Board meetings shall be held at least ~~three (3)~~ **two (2)** times a year at the discretion of the President.

Rationale: To provide flexibility of the State Federation to increase focus on District level meetings, utilize time for club development such as workshop and lessen conflicts with long standing member club activities.

The President will retain the authority to call additional meetings as defined elsewhere in the Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted;
Katherine DeBurra; State President GFWC/CT 2022-2024

Meet Wendy Carriker; GFWC First Vice-President-our guest for the Convention! Please bring a “bee” riddle to share with her!



Wendy is a dedicated Clubwoman since 1985 and has been involved in volunteer and leadership opportunities throughout her community, state and region. Wendy served as GFWC North Carolina Director of Junior Clubs (2000-2002). She then served as a State Officer from 2004 until serving as State President (2012-2014). During her Administration, a new membership video was distributed to clubs across North Carolina “*Feed the Future*”. The President and Director of Juniors Special Project goal was met and exceeded, with over 17 million meals provided to food-insecure children. She led the GFWC Communication and Public Relations Committee as Chairman (2014-2016), and served as GFWC Treasurer (2016-2018), GFWC Secretary (2018-2020), GFWC Second Vice-President (2020-2022) and is currently serving as GFWC First Vice-President (2022-2024). An advocate with Victory Junction Camp, a camp for chronically-ill children. Wendy is on their speakers’ bureau and provides handmade bears for campers to take home. Wendy is highly respected in her community. She was elected to the Mount Airy City Schools Board of Education in 1996, where she served as Chairman (2004-2018). She is committed to serving the students of North Carolina. Wendy is the owner of Wendy Jane Creations and Megan’s Mutt Munchies; she stays busy creating and baking. Married for 45 years to her husband, Chip. They have 2 daughters, a grandson and several grand dogs and cats.