

## Information for Freshmen on GFWC

September 20, 2022

*from Sheila Macauley sjmacau/ey@aal.com*

Dear Freshman,

You made a great decision when you decided to join the WCDNF.

When you joined the WCDNF, you also became a member of two other organizations, a national organization, and a state organization. Part of your dues goes to those organizations, GFWC.

Our national organization is the General Federation of Women's Clubs ("GFWC"), headquartered in Washington DC, in a beautiful old building that is a National Historic Landmark. It was founded in 1890 and is comprised of affiliates in 50 states and several foreign countries. The GFWC provides support to over 80,000 club women worldwide.

Our state affiliate is the General Federation of Women's Clubs/ Connecticut, (GFWC/CT) comprised of 28 local clubs here in our state. They coordinate a statewide conference in the Fall, "District Day", a meeting of local clubs in each Connecticut district, in April, and a convention in May. All members are encouraged to participate in these activities.

One position in the WCDNF, and most other clubs, is Federation Chair. That person, who for us is Sheila Macauley, is the liaison between our club and the state and national organizations. She attends all GFWC/CT meetings and sometimes the national convention and reports back on any news at the state level. She writes a section called "Federation News" in the WCDNF Newsletter each month. By the way, it is very important that you read the WCDNF Newsletter each month, so you know what is going on in our club.

Information about the GFWC is attached. Please establish an account on the Member Portal and regularly visit the web sites of both the state and national organizations. They provide plenty of ideas that will help you to make the WCDNF better.

Another important activity of the Federation Chair is to encourage people to join the GFWC Legislative Action Center, or LAC. It takes very little work...just read any alerts the LAC sends you and contact your members of Congress if so inclined. So far, Sheila has enlisted over 100 members from our club to join this activity. Your participation in the LAC gives the GFWC a stronger national voice and recognition in the halls of Congress. Each of you should join the LAC, either by following the attached instructions or by contacting Sheila Macauley (sjmacauley@aol.com).

Welcome you to our wonderful club! We encourage you to participate fully.

# The General Federation of Women's Clubs

## Origin

1868 -Jane Cunningham Croly denied admittance to all-male event honoring Charles Dickens. Forms a woman's club called Sorosis

1889 - In honor of 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Sorosis, Croly invites other women's clubs across the country to unite.

1890-As a result, 63 women's clubs form the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

## Mission

The GFWC is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

GFWC community service programs span all areas of the lives of our members, their families, and communities: arts, conservation, education, home life, public issues, and international outreach.

GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence.

## Organization

WCDNF ("local") *is a part o*/GFWC/CT ("state") *is a part o*/GFWC (national)

80,000 members worldwide

## Impact for You

YOU are a member of both the state and national organizations

Get involved and use their resources

---

## Activities and Resources

### Activities

April - District Day (meeting of local clubs in each state district)

May - State convention

Summer - International Conference

Fall - CT and New England Regional Conventions

### Resources

GFWC and GFWC/CT web sites provide many tools to achieve your club's goals

- Establish and account on Member Portal (see next page)
- Review these sites regularly for information and ideas

GFWC Awards - We are eligible to compete for several national awards

Membership Discounts - on goods, services, insurance, and travel

Communications - News & Notes, WHRC Newsletter, GFWC Blog

Legislative Action Center - to guide your advocacy efforts (see next page)

---

## GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

The GFWC Legislative Action Center is a powerful tool for GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. This tool can be used to track bills, contact your local representatives and take action on issues relevant to GFWC Resolutions. Find out more about the GFWC IAC by visiting [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) and clicking on "What We Do" on the home page, then... "Legislation" Public Policy" from the drop-down menu.

### REGISTERING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER (LAC) IS EASY.

You can sign up for the LAC by going to the GFWC website ([GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org)), clicking on the "What We Do" tab,

then clicking on **Legislation/Public Policy**, and finally scroll down to click on the image that says, "**Legislative Action Center.**"

From here, click on the blue button that says, "**Join Now.**" The direct link to the LAC is <https://cqrengage.com/gfwc>.

**Fill in their name, address, and email address** then click in the boxes under "**Remember Me**" and "**Email Opt-In**" in order to receive the notifications issued by GFWC.

You will receive email notification that you are registered: "**You have received this email because you entered your contact information on General Federation of Women's Clubs's Action Center.**"

"**TAKE ACTION**" by responding to the notifications that the member supports. Members are encouraged to share the information from the LAC notifications with their family, friends, and local community.

**Note: If you prefer, our Federation Representative, Sheila Macauley, can register you with the LAC. Contact her on 203-790-6847, or [sjmacauley@aol.com](mailto:sjmacauley@aol.com).**

### **GFWC Member Portal**

To gain access to the many key benefits of belonging to the GFWC, from the GFWC club Manual to event and webinar registration, every member should have an account on the GFWC Member Portal. By creating an account, you will also be able to receive GFWC newsletters, such as the weekly News & Notes and WHRC newsletter straight to your inbox.

To sign up for an account, visit [gfwc.users.membberesuite.com](http://gfwc.users.membberesuite.com), click on the profile/person icon in the upper right-hand corner, choose "Join" and follow the prompts.

If you are having difficulty accessing the Portal or downloading resources from the Digital Library, please double check that the pop up blocker of your web browser is turned off to enable the downloaders.