

GFWC TEXAS CLUBWOMAN



Newsletter

The Newsletter of GFWC Texas

Proud Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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FALL 2024

GFWC Texas Officers 2024 - 2026

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Novella Byrd

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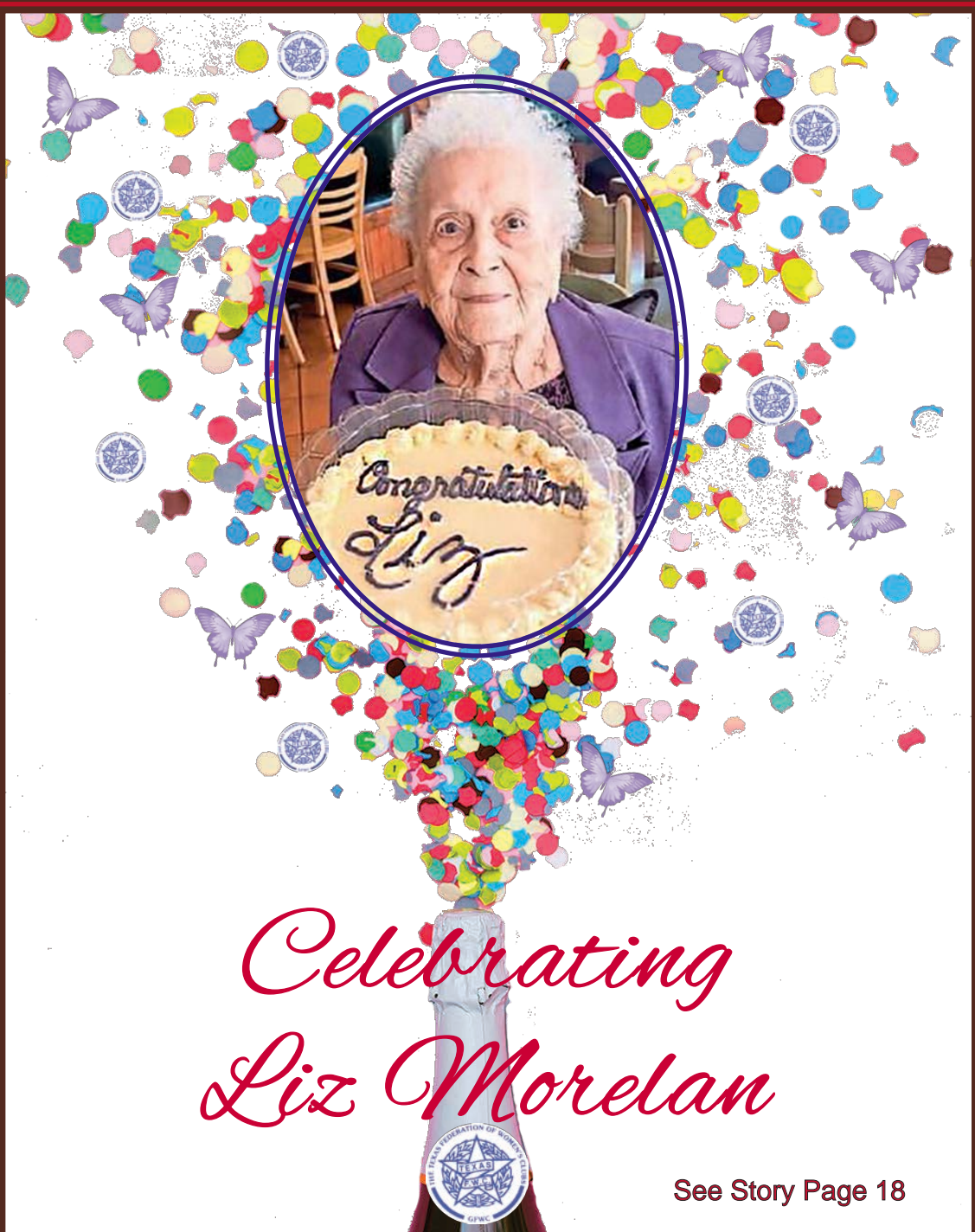
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See Story Page 18

From the GFWC Texas President



Dear GFWC Member

The first three months of the 2024 – 2026 GFWC Texas Administration have been a whirlwind of activity. The summer workshops, held in six locations across the state, were a resounding success, a testament to the collaborative efforts of the hosting clubs, coordinating districts, and the executive committee. Over two hundred members actively participated in the learning sessions, where your state officers shared information regarding this administration's goals, leadership, communication, membership, and reporting. This is a moment of pride for all of us.

The GFWC Texas Fall Board meeting in our beautiful headquarters building in Austin truly reflects our members' active participation. The meeting was well-attended, and members seemed pleased to have the opportunity to explore the building. The 79 attendees, who were transported from the hotel to the headquarters by shuttles, truly made the event successful.

A state LEADS class with 12 members was held the day before the fall board began. The leadership training will continue with two Zoom classes, a final session, and graduation prior to the start of the spring convention in Corpus Christi.

GFWC Texas participated in the GFWC National Day of Service during the Fall Board of Directors meeting. Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller spoke to the group about the agricultural department's work in the state, including eliminating food insecurity. Celia Cole from Feeding Texas, the organization coordinating activities with food banks across the state, also spoke about her organization's role. Over \$1300 was raised and donated to Central Texas Food Bank.

We were pleased to have Amanda Jacobi from Hope for Justice attend the meeting, discuss her organization's role in eliminating human trafficking, and facilitate a live webinar by a Hope for Justice lead investigator.

The legislative/public policy committee provided training on scheduling a meeting with your legislators during our Day at the Capitol, which GFWC Texas is planning for May 13, 2025, to bring attention to human trafficking legislation. Over 100 members have expressed interest in participating in the event. Watch for additional information regarding how you can participate in this exciting event in your email.

After a full day of learning and service, it was time to enjoy our beautiful building and the art of one of our members, Linda Mesler. We moved from room to room in the headquarters. The visit was especially significant to members who had not visited previously.

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There is no time to rest as the district fall boards have started, and we will see you again in your home districts.

Some GFWC Texas members have found time and are preparing for their next event, a trip to Washington, D.C., for the GFWC Holiday Open House on December 4, 2024, with an opportunity to visit the GFWC Headquarters. This annual event is always a treat for members who can make the trip. Enjoy this experience, ladies.

With sincere appreciation for all you do in your clubs and districts.

Barbara Harvey

Barbara Harvey
GFWC Texas President 2024-2026



(Left to Right) Liz Morelan (Trinity District) and GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey at a party held in Morelan's honor.



(Left to Right) GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller at the GFWC Texas Fall Board Meeting.



Angela Short, President of the District Presidents (Left) presents Western District President Melissa Farley with her Butterfly pin as GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey congratulates her.



GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey attended many district fall board meetings. Here she is addressing Pioneer District.

Your Invitation



You are cordially invited to attend the festive 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House on **Wednesday, December 4, 2024**. Join us as we feature the “Season of Giving” celebrating the most meaningful gift—the joy of serving others and the difference we make.

We hope you will join us in person at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC for a day of festivity.

Please RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events and select ONE time slot in which you would like to attend.

If you are planning to bring a group, please contact GFWC Events Manager Nishu Raina at NRaina@gfwc.org



2024 GFWC Texas LEADS Class Off to a Solid Start

by

GFWC Texas President-elect Novella Byrd

GFWC International President Suellen Brazil invites us to **Educate. Engage. Empower.** our club members. The Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) serves as an ideal platform to introduce aspiring leaders to the GFWC experience. We are encouraged to equip our members with the tools needed to cultivate their inherent leadership potential.

The inaugural GFWC Texas LEADS class took place the day before the 128th GFWC Texas Fall Board meeting, led by LEADS Chairman Lou Hitt with 12 club members in attendance: Annette Anderson and Kathryn Miller from the Alamo District; Pam Hoke from the Magnolia District; Diane Casey, Tracy Lamar, Sue Mercer and Julie Lundy-Booker from the Pioneer District; Eva Bennett, Cammie Hyatt, and Judy Makus from the South Texas District; and Fran Mask, and Pam Windham from the Trinity District.

Meetings will continue throughout the year via Zoom, culminating in a graduation ceremony at the Spring Convention in Corpus Christi. Topics covered will include:

- GFWC History and Guidelines
- Team Building
- Conducting Meetings and Planning
- Transitioning During Programs
- Public Speaking
- Script Writing
- Succession Planning for Officers

The first meeting was highly productive, and Lou Hitt delivered an outstanding presentation.



(Seated L-R) Fran Mask, Trinity District, Barbara Harvey GFWC TX President, Novella Byrd GFWC Texas President-elect, Lou Hitt GFWC Texas LEADS Chairman, (Standing L-R) Julie Lundy-Booker Pioneer District, Pam Windham Trinity District, Eva Bennett South Texas District, Cammie Hyatt South Texas District, Kathryn Miller Alamo District, Tracy Lamar Pioneer District, Pam Hoke Magnolia District, Sue Mercer Pioneer District, Judy Makus South Texas District, Annette Anderson Alamo District, and Diane Casey Pioneer District.



GFWC Texas Proudly Stepped Up When the 2024 National Day of Service Arrived.

by

GFWC Texas First Vice President and Dean of Reporting Kathy Horak Smith

GFWC Texas showed its Volunteer Spirit during the 2024 National Day of Service. Thirty-seven clubs, one City Federation, and one district registered to participate in the event. During the GFWC Texas Fall Board Meeting in Austin on September 20th, members in attendance participated in the state event. During Friday morning's meeting, Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller addressed the almost 80 women in attendance. He informed the group about what his office does, including the Health and Nutrition Division and the 3E's of Healthy Living: Educating, Exercise, and Eating Right.

Miller highlighted programs designated to fight food-insecurities for children, families, and the elderly. Some of these programs are the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Texas Farm Fresh Challenge, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, National School Lunch Program, Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Summer Meal Programs. If you'd like to learn more about these programs or what the Agricultural Commission does, visit

<https://texasagriculture.gov/>

Commissioner Miller was followed by Celia Cole, CEO of FeedingTexas, a statewide network of 20 Food Banks. She shared many facts about the State of Texas. This organization advocates for policy change and advance solutions to tackle the root causes of hunger. They also manage resources to support food banks in meeting community needs and align food banks with common goals. Lastly, they coordinate a statewide response when disaster strikes. Our own Robin Cadle, from Alamo District is on the Board of Directors of FeedingTexas and serves as Treasurer.

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She reported that 1 in 6 households faces food insecurities, which is roughly 5.1 million Texans. Texas has the second-highest rate of food insecurity at 16.9% –4.5% higher than the U.S. average. 1 in 5 children experiences hunger – and rates are higher for African-American and Latino children. In addition, 11% of households with seniors in Texas face food insecurity. Unfortunately, higher poverty and lower incomes in rural areas can cause greater reliance on services. She encouraged all of us to get involved in some way.

Next, Kathy Horak Smith, GFWC Texas First Vice President and Dean of Reports and Pam Hoke, GFWC Texas Civic Engagement & Outreach Chair, led the group in several activities. First participants wrote thank-you notes to their local food pantries. Second, members were encouraged to send a letter via FeedingTexas to support the current farm bill to their US Senators and U.S. District Representative. Then, participants worked on crossword puzzles with facts about food insecurities. Finally, participants were able to purchase tickets for a chance to win a \$500.00 gift card to H.E.B. Eva Bennett from GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville and South Texas District was the winner. This latter activity raised \$1,360.00 for the Central Texas Food Bank in Austin. Abby Chopp, MNA, Community Engagement Coordinator of the Central Texas Food Bank thanks us for our support.

Following are the list of clubs that registered with GFWC to engage in activities to fight food insecurities during the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service:

Alamo District
GFWC Amity Club of Bowie
GFWC Amity Study Club of Atlanta
GFWC Austin Federated Woman's Club
GFWC Bluebonnet Drama Club of Kingsville
GFWC Center Woman's Reading Club
GFWC Clover Club of Kaufman
GFWC Culture Club Sanderson, TX
GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club
GFWC Fairfield History Club
GFWC Fideles Inter Se Club
GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club
GFWC Granbury Woman's Club
GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow
GFWC History Club of Whitesboro
GFWC Ingelside Woman's Club
GFWC Kirbyville Woman's Civic Club
GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club
GFWC Las Fidelis Study Club
GFWC Magnolia District
GFWC North Texas Woman's Club
GFWC Paris Noon Study Club
GFWC Phebe K. Warner
GFWC San Gabriel Women's Club Georgetown, TX
GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club
GFWC Texas Decatur Woman's Club
GFWC Texas Past District Presidents Club
GFWC Texas Presidents' Council
GFWC The '36 Club



Texas Agricultural Commissioner Sid Miller addresses attendees.



(L to R) Eva Bennett, South Texas District, winner of HEB card and Pam Hoke GFWC Texas Civic Engagement & Outreach Chair,

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GFWC The '36 Club
GFWC The Woman's Club of Cleveland
GFWC Wednesday Review Club
GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper
GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla
GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville
GFWC Woman's Club of Pleasanton
GFWC Woman's Monday Club of Corpus Christi
GFWC Woman's Thursday Club of Dublin
GFWC Woodville Woman's Study Club

GFWC Texas Waxahachie City Federation
Beta Nu Masters
Book Club
Century Club
Daughters of the American Revolution
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
Delta Kappa Gamma
Ellis County Porcelain Art Club
Ellis County Women's Art Club
Eta Omega Chapter Beta Sigma Phi
Heirloom Club
Getzendaner Roses
Preceptor's Phi Sigma Chapter Beta Sigma Phi
Rebecca Lodge #381



GFWC Texas First Vice President Kathy Horak Smith thanks Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas for her presentation on a serious subject.

Find your local food bank

Search our network of 20 food banks serving all 254 counties in Texas.

Enter your zip code

Tell Congress: Pass a strong Farm Bill to help Texans facing hunger!

Every five years, Congress has the opportunity to revisit and strengthen our investment in core hunger relief strategies like SNAP and food banks via the Farm Bill.

The Texas Food Policy Roundtable, a coalition of over sixty organizations dedicated to fighting hunger in Texas, recently aligned with the Feeding Texas network to advocate for **three major opportunities** to improve these programs.

Please tell your lawmakers: Strengthen the federal nutrition programs and pass a 2024 Farm Bill to prevent hunger in Texas!

A Very Nice Surprise

Paramount Productions | King Street Productions Filming of "1923" - Season Two

Project Description

King Street Productions, a subsidiary of Paramount Productions, reached out to the **Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Historical Foundation (TFWCHF)** in April 2024 to film in September 2024 for the second season of 1923, a prequel to their hit television series Yellowstone, which stars the likes of Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford.

Scope of Work

- Dates rented: 6AM September 3, 2024 - 12AM September 14, 2024
- Setup Dates: 9/3 - 9/9
- Film Dates: 9/10 - 9/12
- Breakdown/Restoration Dates: 9/13 - 9/14



Payment

- Rate for Venue Rental - \$83,000 (\$78,000 venue rental, \$5000 damage deposit)
- Rate for Facilities Manager - \$5,078.13 (162.5 hours worked at \$31.25/hr)

Overall Thoughts

Paramount and King Street Productions went above and beyond to ensure the building was treated with the utmost respect, and returned in a condition better than it was given. Their crews had police and overnight security watching over the building during setup, filming, and breakdown. The art directors ensured restoration was completed in a timely manner, with all items returning to their original locations, all colors matched accordingly, and that the highest quality of paint and white glove treatment was used.

This was a large project for our in-house staff as well (Sales & Events Coordinator, Facilities Manager, and Facilities Administrator), as we worked diligently to negotiate with leaseholders to make necessary dates available for filming. The TFWCHF staff was able to negotiate compensation from Paramount for its affected leaseholders, ensuring that all parties benefited.

Additionally, we now have the basis for future media contracts, thanks to the Chairman. We look forward to continuing this growth and hope to make the underlying goals and missions of the TFWC and GFWC successful.



Confronting Human Trafficking: A Call to Action at the 128th Fall Board Meeting

At the 128th Fall Board Meeting, GFWC Texas members were faced with one of the most pressing and heartbreaking issues of our time: human trafficking. This criminal enterprise thrives in secrecy, preying on society's most vulnerable populations—often women and children. With Texas ranking second in the nation for human trafficking cases, this issue is not only global but also alarmingly local. Recognizing the gravity of the problem, GFWC Texas is committed to educating and empowering its members to take an active stand in the fight to end human trafficking.

Amanda Jacobi, a passionate advocate and representative from Hope for Justice—a global organization devoted to eradicating modern-day slavery—delivered a compelling presentation that shed light on this hidden epidemic. Jacobi emphasized the importance of collaboration, noting Hope for Justice's partnership with GFWC International and GFWC Texas as a crucial step in raising



Amanda Jacobi conducts ZOOM presentation with Dr. Richard Schoeberl at the GFWC Texas Fall Board Meeting.

awareness, mobilizing resources, and ultimately dismantling trafficking networks. She outlined the organization's multi-faceted approach, which includes prevention, rescue, restoration, and reform. By supporting this cause, GFWC Texas members are helping to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and oppressed.

In addition to Jacobi's address, attendees had the opportunity to view an in-depth online presentation from Dr. Richard Schoeberl, a Lead Investigator with extensive experience in human trafficking cases. Dr. Schoeberl's presentation illuminated the scope of the crisis, providing critical statistics that underscore the urgent need for action. According to his findings, human trafficking is a

multi-billion-dollar industry, affecting millions globally, with traffickers targeting individuals in seemingly safe environments. Dr. Schoeberl also provided actionable guidance, including key signs of trafficking that members could identify in their own communities. These indicators ranged from unusual behavior in children and adults to the presence of controlling individuals who monitor or restrict their movements.

GFWC Texas clubwomen return to their communities equipped with these powerful insights, they stand ready to make a difference. With newfound knowledge and resources, they will raise awareness through community events, advocate for legislative reform on May 13th at the Texas State Capital, and collaborate with local law enforcement and advocacy organizations. Most importantly, they are committed to protecting the vulnerable—those who often go unnoticed—and ensuring that the heinous crime of human trafficking is brought out of the shadows. Through their dedication and collective effort, GFWC Texas members are joining a global movement to fight for justice, support survivors, and dismantle the structures that allow human trafficking to persist.

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUR CALL TO ACTION

MAY 13, 2025

Mark your calendar on **May 13, 2025**. That date is reserved as **GFWC Texas Day at the Capitol**. Make your plans to be in Austin with other Texas club women to let our legislators know we bring our collective power to stop human trafficking in Texas and to protect the victims of modern slavery.

Plans are made for this milestone event. A block of rooms is reserved at the Doubletree by Hilton in Austin; a bus is secured to take us from the hotel to the Capitol; Senator Birdwell has agreed to be our sponsor; a catered lunch is arranged for us at the Capitol; a photo session is planned to mark our presence. All that is left to do is for participants to reserve a meeting time that day with their own legislators and to prepare for those meetings. We want to make a great impression and to establish ourselves as advocates for



Maridel Fryar

legislation that protects women and children who are at risk.

If you have not already signed up to join our “sea of blue” in Austin on May 13, email **Maridell Fryar**, chairman of the event, at mfryar4950@att.net to sign up. Those participating will receive a series of documents to assist them in preparing for the event, participating in the event, and following up on the event. This is your opportunity to be a part of advocacy in action.



Membership: How to Gain, Maintain, and Sustain It

by

GFWC Texas Second Vice President and Dean of Membership

Katherine Hajek

Why is membership important? We want our organization to grow. Don't you want your friends to be a part of our wonderful organization? Most important, is to be intentional with your efforts, gaining members is great, but we also want them to stay. Recruiting ideas.

- Develop an “elevator speech”, keep it short and meaningful, about 30 seconds
- Set Goals for Growth – remember for every member you lose you must recruit two to grow. Clubs could strive to gain 3 new members per year.
- Identify perspective members – they are everywhere.
- Plan a recruitment event – a social event at someone's home, “mix and mingle” at a local restaurant or café.

These are all great ideas; I am sure there are many more. Sometimes we need to think outside the box. I know that some clubs are struggling to attract younger women into their clubs, how can your club adjust to attract younger members? For more ideas see the GFWC Membership Toolkit. For the next quarter October, November and December – let us focus on Member value and benefits of belonging. Which are many and here a few:



Katherine Hajek

- Strength in Unity – Members strengthen their voices in shaping public issues and policy.
- Support and encouragement – Members have a network of women with similar interest and concerns, fun, fellowship and lasting friendships.
- Leadership training and professional development – Knowledge and experience acquired through volunteer training and community service.
- A varied volunteer menu – many national resources to help clubs plan and create community service projects.
- Health and happiness – Studies show that personal satisfaction that comes with making positive difference helps volunteers live longer.
- A great selling point is our dues, what international organization has dues for only \$15.00 a year? That is the amount for GFWC membership annual dues. The value of those dues is worth much more.

Remember this administration's theme “**Educate, Engage and Empower**”, I sent out the District Presidents and the District Membership Chairman information the GFWC club grants for membership recruiting, and the Membership Recruitment Campaign report. There are four quarter areas which GFWC would like reports on.

- July, August, September – Focus On: Clear Communication – Make sure members have regular updates, and have a way for them to contact leadership with feedback or concerns.
 - **Due October 1.**
- October, November, December – Focus On: Member Value and Benefits of Belonging

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– Clearly educate and communicate the value of being a member of your club and GFWC. Review membership benefits regularly based on membership feedback and adjust accordingly.

o **Due: January 2.**

Do not miss opportunities to recruit members – GFWC will respond and forward all emails to appropriate state persons and that will be forwarded to the appropriate club president or membership chairman. Make sure to follow up with an email or phone call. The same can be done with your Facebook Page. Remember that someone took the time to ask about your club, so give them the courtesy with a follow-up call or email.

I will be sending out more information to the District Membership Chairman on how to “Educate, Empower, Engage our members. The more we tell, the more we sell. Remember that the GFWC Club Manual is full of great ideas. Please contact me with any questions or if you need help.

First Annual GFWC Texas Fall Board Reception and Art Show by GFWC Texas First Vice President Kathy Horak Smith

GFWC Texas Executive Committee hosted a reception and art show in the Nadeane Barber Gallery at the 2024 Fall Board Meeting at the GFWC Texas Headquarters on Friday, September 20, 2024. GFWC Amity Club of Bowie and Pioneer District Life Member, Linda Mesler was the featured artist. She exhibited 10 watercolor paintings, including the first one she ever painted. She wanted everyone to see her progression as a watercolorist over the years. The paintings were beautiful, and everyone picked their favorite. Of course, we couldn't agree on which one was the most beautiful because “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” (Margaret Wolfe Hungerford). Thank you, Linda Mesler for sharing your talents with the GFWC women of Texas!

The GFWC Texas Executive Board has agreed to continue the reception and art show at the GFWC Texas Fall Board Meetings. Look for information about next year's art show around the 2025 Spring Convention.



Members enjoyed a break in the day's meetings with refreshments and an art display of 11 of Linda Mesler's watercolor pieces. Mesler gives credit to Soon Y. Warren for being a wonderful teacher.



Thank you, GFWC Texas, for this wonderful opportunity and the many kind words expressed. I am humbled and very thankful.

Linda L. Mesler

GFWC Texas District Presidents Are Ready to be Effective Leaders by Setting and Meeting Goals

by

Angela Short, President of the GFWC Texas District Presidents

GFWC Texas Clubwomen this is Angela Short, President of the District Presidents. I am also the Pioneer District President and am excited to start my administration under Barbara Harvey. My plan for this administration is for all District Presidents to be more unified in communication and promote GFWC Texas.

As District Presidents we work together to give the women of Texas all the tools in order pump start their clubs to be successful. Each District has the same goals today as they did over 125 years ago, improve our communities, grow as a club, and find new members. It is our goal to work with each district and have each club member become more involved and the way to achieve this is for the District Presidents to take a larger leadership role and get to work to make GFWC Texas a stronger organization.

We are working to have the same information sent out across the state at our meetings, they should be similar but the content different depending on that president's preference. I encourage each district to promote GFWC Texas through social media and post pictures of your district meetings and meetings that the District President attends. We need to encourage our members to promote GFWC Texas by posting on social media and wearing GFWC merchandise.

As District Presidents we will be setting goals that can be accomplished in a short time frame which will help attain our goals. Each district has outstanding committees that need to work together. Another goal, as mentioned earlier, is to **communicate**. If we as District Presidents, develop the right attitude, all these things can easily be accomplished. Anything that happens to an organization depends upon the attitudes of the individual members. The atmosphere or spirit of an organization is influenced in more ways than any of you can conceive, the attitudes of its membership. We are proud to have been elected to lead the members in our district and we will successfully make changes to help our district grow and be even more effective.



President of the Presidents, Angela Short, gives her report to the GFWC Texas members present at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting held in Austin. Each district president wore butterfly wings, and some had antennae, to give their individual district reports.

2024 GFWC Texas Fall Board Meeting



Most of the 79 attendees of the Fall Board Meeting in front of GFWC Texas Headquarters.



Can you find the current president of GFWC Texas?



Shopping those fundraising tables is our thing!



Beth Hemby, Amanda Jacobi, and President Barbara Harvey.



Writing "Thank You" notes to food banks across Texas.



Billie Williams, Past President of GFWC Texas at podium.

(Left) Patti Poe and Angela Short made sure that we ate well.

Enjoying Headquarters



It was a treat to get to visit and enjoy "our house."



Visiting during break.



Refreshments served.



Chances being purchased for a \$500 HEB card.



The sweetest part of our meetings. Clapping hands and singing before the session is closed.



Fran Mask was our victim in the dinner murder mystery.



GFWC Texas Executive Board.



"The Collect" in unison.



GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla Stresses Suicide Awareness

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla has embraced the theme "Educate. Engage. Empower." set forth by GFWC International President Suellen Brazil. In recognition of September as Suicide Awareness Month, the Club aimed to increase awareness about suicide among its members and the broader community.

County Judge Leodoro Martinez, III, read a proclamation sponsored by the Club declaring September as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month in LaSalle County. In the evening during the September Club Meeting, Clubmember Ana Zamora led a program highlighting the services provided by the Camino Real Crisis Center, which offers a wide range of support for individuals at all stages of life. Their services include screening, assessment, referrals, case management, medication management, counseling, crisis intervention, rehabilitation, and family support. Camino Real Community Services provides trauma-informed mental health programs for children, adolescents, and adults. Co-presenter Melody Munoz, Assistant Business Development Director at Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, discussed the warning signs to watch for in individuals in crisis.

The following morning, the Club took the program to the Cotulla community by sponsoring a "Cafecito" featuring the two speakers from the previous evening's meeting. Community members enjoyed brunch and coffee as the speakers shared vital information to raise awareness about the prevalence of suicide across all age groups. The presenters were highly informative, and many attendees remained after the brunch to discuss ways to take action.

The GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla is committed to empowering individuals in LaSalle County by providing information about available resources during times of crisis.



(Above) LaSalle County Judge Leodoro Martinez, III, read a proclamation declaring September as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month in LaSalle County.

(Left) Presenters for both the evening club meeting and morning programs were Ana Zamora and Melody Munoz.

Liz Morelan: An Inspiration and Model to Serving Others

Friends are precious, we can all agree. But when your friend is 103 years old, still active in her community, and taking care of herself. . . that friend is a treasure! Patricia Davis feels that way about her friend and fellow club woman Liz Morelan. Davis was compelled to see that her friend got recognition for her long life of service to her community. So, she got to work and with others and on August 8, 2024, Whitesboro Mayor David Blaylock read a proclamation announcing that it was "Liz Morelan Day." This was not the first time this had happened. In 2021, when she turned 100 years old the City of Whitesboro proclaimed April 24 as "Liz Morelan Day."

Known for her community involvement, integrity, and spunk, Morelan has gained friends and supporters for many years. She has been a member of a General Federated Woman's Club for 71 years. Many of those who have known her attended the party held in her honor on August 8th. City and county office holders and dignitaries (past and presently seated) were also in attendance. One admiring acquaintance traveled over six hours to be part of the celebration. GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey attended, as did Past President GFWC Texas Patti Poe and Past President GFWC Texas Barbara Winningham with other club and district members.

Morelan's life of service has not gone unnoticed. Her accolades and awards have been steadily mounting and they are: as a founding member of "Keep Whitesboro Beautiful;" recipient of the Outstanding Community Service Award and the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce; her Veteran's Program of 2003; her work with the History Club in getting the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Route designated as a National Historical Trail; and the title of GFWC Texas Trinity District Life Member Emeritus for her work within that organization. Congratulations, Liz, on a lifetime of achievements. Keep up the good work!!



LIZ MORELAN DAY

Amity Study Club Participates in GFWC National Day of Service

On September 28, 2024, Amity Study Club, Trinity District, participated in General Federation of Women's Clubs' National Day of Service, which "spotlights an area of need in communities across the nation and around the world to bring about positive change." Since this year's National Day of Service focused on food insecurity and hunger, Amity Study Club chose to take on teaching young at-risk mothers how to cook nutritious and easily prepared meals by partnering with Pathways Pregnancy Center. Pathways is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide life skills, free life-affirming pregnancy services, baby care and childbirth classes, along with risk avoidance education to help prevent or alleviate a lifestyle crisis for young women.



While some club members were

responsible for childcare, others led a cooking demonstration which included knife skills, how to substitute different ingredients, and the art of "hiding" vegetables in a meal as well as the importance of family mealtimes and how making meals at

home could be less expensive than eating out or purchasing "convenience" foods. Recipes shown were Taco Soup, and Sausage and Potato Bake, the latter being repurposed to make Breakfast Tacos. Club members also prepared different recipes ahead of time for a tasting including Party Chicken, Meatloaf, Cheesy Noodle Casserole, and Egg Roll in a Bowl, which was a big hit with attendants. A Registered Dietician was also invited by the club to teach on the importance of nutrition, how to read labels, and avoiding extra sugar by demonstrating how much sugar was added to fast food, which wowed those present.

Each attendee left with a binder of the healthy recipes served as well as all the ingredients needed to make two of the dishes demonstrated. Club members were thrilled to later receive a photo from a participant who prepared one of the recipes that evening. In all, Amity Study Club donated over four hundred pounds of food as well as club members donated two hundred seventeen volunteer hours to aid in combating food insecurities in our community.



GFWC Culture Club Participates in National Day of Service

GFWC Culture Club was the only club in Western District that participated in the National Day of Service. The club organized "Sanderson Strong: Community Food Drive" which was held on September 28th. Area churches were contacted as well as the school, Terrell County offices, Sanderson Chamber of Commerce, and the 4-H Club. Work and communication with representatives of each group was established. Donation boxes were placed at various retail locations that were convenient for people to make their donations 10 days in advance of the event. We advertised via Face Book and with flyers (attached) placed around town. (There is no newspaper or radio in Sanderson).

150 pounds of food was collected, most of which was from a list of items that the Terrell County Food Pantry had requested. Our club donated \$400, and members donated \$40 plus \$164.23 in In Kind food donations. There was a \$28 cash donation from a hunter that was in town and saw our poster. Our members spent a couple of hours sorting, organizing, and storing the food that was donated, and husbands were sent out to collect the donation boxes.

The response from the community was good and that the drive was a success. Terrell County and the Food Pantry were thrilled! And as an extra special bonus, one of the Food Pantry volunteers that we worked with came to our meeting and wants to join our club!!!



Trinity District
Modern Study Club
Kileen
Gwendolyn Caviness

1868

Professional journalist **JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY** WAS **DENIED ENTRANCE** to an all-male press club event and responds by organizing a woman's club. Jennie June, as she was known, names the club Sorosis, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."



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The Sorosis Club of New York City convenes 61 women's clubs from around the country to organize a federation. Sorosis President Ella Dietz Clymer closed her address at the March conference with the words, **"WE LOOK FOR UNITY, BUT UNITY IN DIVERSITY."** The original GFWC pin was designed and commissioned by the Committee on the Federation Badge Pin featuring this quote in 1892.

Calendar of Events

November 2024 - May 2026

2024

November 2	Caprock Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
December 4	GFWC Holiday Open House, Washington, D.C.

2025

January 20-21	GFWC Texas HF and GFWC Texas EC Meeting, Austin, Texas.
March 1	Alamo Spring Convention.
March 15	South Texas Spring Convention.
March 22	Magnolia Spring Convention.
March 29	Pioneer Spring Convention.
April 2	Capitol Spring Convention.
April 5	Caprock Spring Convention.
April 12	Trinity Spring Convention.
April 30 -May 3	GFWC Texas Spring Convention, Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi.
June 5 - 9	GFWC Annual Convention, Omni Atlanta CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia.
June 26	Capitol Summer Workshop.

July 21-22	GFWC Texas HF and GFWC Texas EC Meeting, Austin, Texas.
September 4-7	GFWC South Central Region Meeting, Courtyard SA, Riverwalk, San Antonio.
September 26-27	GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Austin.
October 4	South Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
October 11	Pioneer Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
October 15	Capitol Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
October 18	Magnolia Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
October 25	Trinity Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
November 1	Alamo Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
November 8	Caprock Fall Board of Directors Meeting.
December 10	GFWC Holiday Open House, Washington, DC.

2026

January 19-20	GFWC Texas HF and GFWC Texas EC Meeting, Austin, Texas.
March 13-14	South Texas Spring Convention.
March 21	Magnolia Spring Convention.
March 28	Pioneer Spring Convention, Decatur, Texas.
April 1	Capitol Spring Convention

Calendar will be updated each issue.