

GFWC TEXAS CLUBWOMAN



Newsletter

The Newsletter of GFWC Texas

Proud Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2025

**GFWC Texas
Officers
2024 - 2026**

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Barbara Harvey

President-elect
Novella Byrd

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Smith

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Scholarship
Committee Chair
Terri Kennedy

- DAY AT THE CAPITOL -



*From the GFWC Texas
President*



Dear GFWC Texas Members,

What a powerful and inspiring season it has been for GFWC Texas! As summer unfolds, I find myself reflecting with gratitude and pride on the accomplishments, growth, and continued passion that define our statewide organization.

We began this spring with a remarkable GFWC Texas Annual Convention in Corpus Christi. Our members gathered from across the state to celebrate our achievements and conduct the vital business of GFWC Texas. It was a joy and an honor to welcome GFWC International President Suellen Brazil as our special guest. Her presence reminded us of the strength and unity we share with clubwomen across the globe. During the convention, we proudly recognized the outstanding work of our clubs, districts, and individual clubwomen whose dedication and creativity continue to move our mission forward. The convention was filled with enthusiasm, fellowship, and a deep commitment to service.

Another highlight of our spring was our historic Day at the Capitol on May 13. Over 60 GFWC Texas members, dressed in royal blue, filled the halls of the Texas State Capitol to raise awareness about Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes, our special state project. Members from every district, including the Lone Star Administrative District, stood united as a visible and vocal force, advocating for those whose voices have been silenced. The reading of a resolution in both the House and Senate chambers in recognition of our work was a deeply meaningful moment and a true milestone in our advocacy journey.

Our outstanding Juniorette proudly represented GFWC Texas at the GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta. She delivered a heartfelt presentation on what being a Juniorette has meant to her and reflected on her transition as she begins her college journey. Her poise and passion made an unforgettable impression. We are also thrilled that the GFWC Juniorettes and Mia Barriontos will be featured in the summer edition of GFWC Clubwoman Magazine—a national spotlight on the next generation of leadership and service!

The GFWC Annual Convention was a celebration of unity, impact, and excellence. I am proud to share that GFWC Texas received the Creativity Award in Membership and was also honored with additional awards in both the Leadership and Health & Wellness categories. These recognitions are a reflection of the incredible work our members are doing every day in their clubs and communities.

As we look ahead to the fall, I encourage each of you to stay connected, stay inspired, and

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keep building on the momentum we've created. Whether through local service, district leadership, or statewide advocacy, your dedication is the heart of GFWC Texas.

Thank you for everything you do—for your time, your talent, and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. Let us continue to finish strong, together.

With gratitude and hope,

Barbara Harvey

63rd President, GFWC Texas

"It's not where you start, it's where you finish."



Texas Representative Ryan Guillen (District 31) from Rio Grande City greets GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey and President-elect Novella Byrd to the Capitol.



GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey and GFWC Texas First Vice President Kathy Horak Smith enjoy the festivities of the GFWC Convention.



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil and GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey visit at GFWC Convention.



Past President of GFWC Texas Cindy Simmons visits with GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey at GFWC Texas Spring Convention.



Novella Byrd

President-elect GFWC Texas

Stepping into Leadership: A Call to Courage for Every Woman

"Year One of the 2024–2026 Administration is in the books! As we look ahead, nominating committees will soon begin identifying candidates for leadership positions at both the district and club levels. Now is the time to consider where your talents and passion can make an impact."

Leadership isn't reserved for the loudest voice in the room—it's often discovered in quiet courage, compassion, and the desire to make a difference. Yet many women hesitate to step into leadership roles within their GFWC Texas clubs or districts. Whether it's fear of inadequacy, time constraints, or simply uncertainty about what the role entails, these concerns are valid—but they don't have to hold you back.

Leadership in GFWC Texas is not about being perfect; it's about being present. It's about bringing your unique talents, perspectives, and passions to the table to help shape projects, empower members, and impact your community. Many who have accepted leadership roles started with doubt, but found mentorship, friendship, and personal growth along the way. GFWC Texas provides a supportive environment where you are never alone—where collaboration and learning are part of the journey.

You don't have to know everything to lead. You simply have to care enough to try. If your heart is in the right place, your hands and mind will follow. Consider saying "yes" to that committee chair, officer nomination, or project lead. You might just discover not only your capacity to lead, but a deeper connection to the mission and women who share your values.

Leadership starts with one brave step. Maybe it's yours.

"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."

~Eleanor Roosevelt



- Day at the Capitol -
May 13, 2025

GFWC Texas
Takes Action
Against
Human
Trafficking.



The Senate of The State of Texas

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 509

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome members of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs who are gathering in Austin on May 13, 2025, to celebrate Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Founded in Waco in 1897, this esteemed network of community leaders operates as the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas, and it upholds its mission to empower women and create positive change locally through the efforts of more than 2,000 members across 78 factions; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas awards numerous scholarships to support students who are pursuing higher education in Texas, and in 2024, members statewide directed nearly 96,000 volunteer hours into 2,245 community service projects and donated approximately \$400,000 in monetary gifts and \$190,000 in in-kind contributions; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas is honoring its historic legacy of 128 years of meaningful service with a current commitment to address human trafficking, one of the most urgent and devastating forms of violence against women and children; and

WHEREAS, The federation fosters a culture of successful women who are ready to reach their goals by providing its club members with opportunities to serve and encourage others and to build strong relationships; and

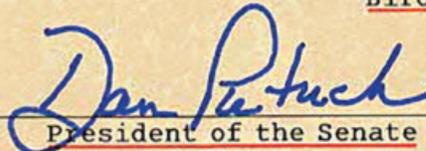
WHEREAS, All associated with the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs are truly deserving of special recognition for their efforts to improve lives, empower women, and strengthen communities in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commend the members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas on their unwavering commitment to increasing the volunteerism, leadership, and advocacy of Texas women and extend to all best wishes for a memorable visit to Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the federation as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

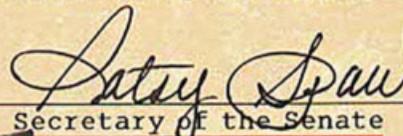
Birdwell





President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on May 13, 2025. _____



Secretary of the Senate



Member, Texas Senate



*To Pres. Harvey,
Thank you to you and all the ladies
for joining us! My best.*

Senate District 22
89th Legislature

Brian Brindwell

The Day's Schedule – May 13th

Meeting Point: 8:00 a.m. – Lobby of the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin
Northwest Arboretum (8901 Business Park, Austin, TX)
to board the bus to the Capitol.

Group Photo: 9:00 a.m. – Steps of the Capitol Rotunda.

Legislative Sessions:

10:00 a.m. – Seated in the House gallery.

11:00 a.m. – Seated in the Senate gallery.

Lunch: Members will gather in a reserved room
following the legislative sessions.

Legislator Meetings: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
– Meetings with respective legislators and representatives.

GFWC Texas Returns to the Capitol:

A Sea of Blue Standing for a Cause

(Austin, Texas) Planning for GFWC Texas's Day at the Capitol began with the 2024–2026 President's Special Project: Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes. Recognizing the potential for meaningful impact, GFWC Texas set out to raise awareness and urge lawmakers to strengthen protections against this horrific crime—especially in Texas. The state consistently ranks among the top in reported human trafficking cases. With its large population, proximity to the border, and extensive transportation infrastructure, Texas is a major hub for trafficking activity.

It had been 20 years since GFWC Texas last visited the Capitol, during the administration of then-President Barbara Winingham (2004–2006). Although Barbara passed away before this year's event, her legacy was honored by those who carried her passion forward. Without a doubt, she would have stood proudly among the sea of blue on May 13, 2025.

The effort was led by Legislative and Public Policy Chairman Maridell Fryar, with the support of a dedicated team: Beth Hemby, Chairman of Domestic and Sexual Violence and the President's Special Project; Pam Hoke, Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman; Fran Mask, Resolutions Chairman; Carolyn McLeod, former GFWC Texas First Vice President; and GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey.

With her experience as a former president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association, Maridell brought valuable knowledge of legislative advocacy. Carolyn McLeod reached out to Senator Brian Birdwell (District 22), who agreed to sponsor the group's visit. Planning moved forward once the necessary Capitol forms were submitted and approved.

Fran Mask drafted a resolution addressing human trafficking, which was adopted at the 2025 GFWC Texas Spring Convention. The committee met regularly to coordinate logistics, prepare advocacy materials, and keep members informed. Interest forms were distributed at summer workshops, club meetings, and district gatherings—resulting in over 100 members expressing interest in attending. A compelling PowerPoint presentation created by Beth Hemby was used at the GFWC Texas Spring Convention to train members on how to conduct legislative visits. Updates were shared via Constant Contact emails to ensure participants had the information they needed.

Blue logo shirts were ordered to represent the color for human trafficking awareness. Lunch and meeting space at the Legislative Conference Center were secured. Members were encouraged to make appointments with their individual legislators and deliver leave-behind packets, which included:

- GFWC and GFWC Texas brochures.
- The state convention-adopted resolution.
- A document obtained from Hope for Justice, a GFWC affiliate organization, including human trafficking statistics for Texas.
- A letter from the GFWC Texas President.

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On May 12, 61 members from all eight GFWC Texas districts and the Lone Star Administrative District gathered at the hotel. They were joined by South Central Region Treasurer Suzanne Simons, who traveled from Louisiana to support the effort. Members picked up their shirts and packets, then spent the evening reconnecting and preparing for the next day.

May 13, 2025, began with breakfast at the hotel. Dressed in matching royal blue shirts, members boarded shuttles and arrived at the Capitol—a striking and unified presence. Some proceeded directly to their scheduled meetings, while others delivered packets and made impromptu visits. Along the way, they caught the attention of passersby in elevators and hallways, creating spontaneous opportunities to raise awareness.

At 10:00 a.m., members gathered in the gallery of the Texas House of Representatives, where they were recognized from the floor by Representative Denise Villalobos (District 34) and Representative Ryan Guillen (District 31). Soon after, the group moved to the Senate Gallery, where Senator Birdwell introduced a resolution in their honor. The group then took photos with both Senator Birdwell and Representative Guillen on the steps outside the chamber.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Legislative Conference Center, followed by more visits and packet deliveries. By 2:00 p.m., members returned to the hotel—tired, but proud of what they had accomplished.

GFWC Texas showed up, spoke up, and stood up for those who cannot. President Barbara Harvey hopes it won't be another 20 years before the Federation returns to the Capitol. Their presence made a clear and compelling statement: GFWC Texas is committed to raising its voice on issues that matter. And on this day, their voices were heard.



The “Sea of Blue” stood out in the House Gallery. From there to the Senate Gallery, GFWC Texas was there and ready to be recognized and heard. This scene was from a monitor in the Capitol building.



Determined and optimistic.



Our spearhead observes from a good vantage point



Here we come!!



All smiles but anxious.



Above: Representative Ryan Guillen (District 31) from Rio Grande City and constituents.



Pioneer District



Keep check of time!



Beth Hemby



Clever!



Maridell Fryar



GFWC Texas is poised and *READY!*



Left to Right: Tissa Peterson, member of Florence J. Scott Woman's Club; Senator Judith Zaffirini from Laredo; Novella Byrd, GFWC Texas President-elect; and Lori Perez, President of Florence J. Scott Woman's Club.

Senator Zaffirini (middle in black) is the first Hispanic female to be elected to the Senate and she became the first female Dean of the Senate in 2023.

Below Left: Members on the upper floor of Rotundra.

Below Right: Trinity District members ready to take part of the day's proceedings.



Editor's note:

Some Thoughts to Ponder

Twenty years ago, TFWC gathered members and went to the Capitol under the leadership of then TFWC President Barbara Winingham. **TWENTY YEARS AGO.**

In 2025, under the leadership of GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey, our membership gathered to once again make our presence known and our voices heard at our state's capitol. Why so long a gap between visits?

We have a voice and a strong one in our numbers. Let's not get lazy and forget that. And, a suggestion to those of you who made the effort this year . . . drop a note to your legislators that met with you and thank them for their time. That physical presence in that note on their desk will not go unnoticed or forgotten. **It makes your voice stronger.**

For those of you who made the effort . . .WELL DONE and THANK YOU!!!

Let's do it again, **SOON!!!** We don't have to wait another twenty years and for a president to be named BARBARA to find our collective voice and use it.

— Linda Mesler

GFWC Texas Spring Convention

April 30 - May 3, 2025

Omni Hotel
Corpus Christi, Texas

GFWC Texas 2025 Annual Convention: A Celebration of Service, Sisterhood, and Soaring Together

(Corpus Christi) More than ninety members from across the state gathered in Corpus Christi for the GFWC Texas 2025 Annual Convention—a time filled with inspiration, celebration, and a shared commitment to making a difference. From the first gavel to the final farewell, the convention embodied the heart of GFWC Texas: purpose-driven service, strong leadership, and unbreakable bonds of friendship.

A highlight of the weekend was the visit from GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, who brought greetings from GFWC and delivered a powerful keynote centered on her theme: Educate, Engage, Empower. Her message encouraged members to continue investing in one another and in the future of the Federation.

President Barbara Harvey's theme, "It's not where you start; it's where you finish," guided the spirit of the convention. Just as the butterfly undergoes a journey of transformation, each of us has the ability to grow, evolve, and take flight when we stay committed to our mission. This theme was brought to life throughout the weekend—especially during the district reports presented by the District Presidents, affectionately known as Barbara's Beautiful Butterflies. Each report highlighted the creativity, energy, and impact of clubs across GFWC Texas.

Together, our members accomplished remarkable things in 2024. The following collective impact was reported:

- 2,245 projects completed
- 96,305 volunteer hours
- \$392,321 dollars donated
- \$189,574 in in-kind donations
- \$491,241 dollars raised

These numbers tell a story of service, generosity, and deep commitment to community.

Awards were presented to outstanding clubs, districts, and individuals for their achievements. Special recognition was given to:

- Outstanding Juniorette of the Year: Mia Barrientos
- LEADS Candidate: Sherry Eishen

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- Clubwoman of the Year: Esmeralda Gonzalez

Each honoree was recognized with a certificate, a plaque, and beautiful flowers to honor their contributions and leadership.

In support of the 2024–2026 President’s Special Project, Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes, two meaningful resolutions were adopted. Members also received training in preparation for the upcoming Day at the Capitol, where we’ll advocate for stronger protections and greater awareness surrounding this critical issue.

The convention also included a time of remembrance. GFWC Chaplain Tissa Peterson led a touching memorial service to honor the lives of members we lost over the past year. A special remembrance was given by GFWC Texas Past State President 2016-2018 Patti Poe in memory of Barbara Winingham, GFWC Texas Past State President (2004–2006), whose legacy continues to inspire us all.

We were reminded throughout the weekend that it takes all of us—each district, club, and member—to make our mission come alive. The dedicated members of South Texas worked tirelessly to make this convention a success, and we are grateful for their warm hospitality and attention to detail.

Before we adjourned, Alamo District President Annette Anderson extended an invitation to all members to attend the 2026 GFWC Texas Annual Convention in San Antonio, where we’ll celebrate the installation of the 2026–2028 officers and continue our Federation journey together.

Enjoy the photos included in this newsletter or posted on Facebook—and make plans now to join us in San Antonio next year. Together, we will continue to soar!



Barbara’s Butterflies



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil is welcomed by GFWC Texas Officers



Opening Remarks and Welcome



All Smiles



This made Cindy’s day.



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil (in red) makes time to visit with convention attendees.



Pioneer District members and GFWC International President Suellen Brazil (black dress center) and GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey (white).



GFWC Texas members and GFWC International President Suellen Brazil (center black dress).



And the big winner of ESO is Elaine Wilde with Wanda Godso and Mary Nettie Rodriguez helping display awards.



First Graduating Class of GFWC Texas LEADS with GFWC International President Suellen Brazil.



Waiting in the Art Gallery.



Our Hosts - South Texas District



Trinity District Ladies



Outstanding Clubwoman Volunteer 2024 was Esmeralda Gonzalez shown here with GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey holding plaque.



Left to Right: GFWC TX President Barbara Harvey, Humberto Gonzalez (husband), Esmeralda Gonzalez, GFWC President Suellen Brazil.



Left to Right: GFWC Parliamentarian Carol Habgood and GFWC International President Suellen Brazil.



Mia Barrientos was chosen as GFWC Texas Outstanding Juniorette. Read more about her.



GFWC Texas LEADS Candidate: Sherry Eishen is flanked by GFWC and GFWC Texas dignitaries.



GFWC Texas Past Presidents (Left to Right) Billie Williams, Cindy Simmons, Carol Habgood and Patti Poe.



South Texas District ladies having some fun.

MIA BARRIENTOS

GFWC Texas

Outstanding Juniorette



(Left to Right) Mia's mother, Jannette Gonzalez, GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey, Mia, The Woman's Monday Club President Marsha Wellman, and GFWC International President Suellen Brazil.

A Legacy of Leadership and Empowerment: Mia Barrientos Reflects on Her Journey with the Bluebonnet Drama Club

By Mia Barrientos, 2024–2025 President
Bluebonnet Drama Club, Kingsville, Texas
GFWC Texas 2024-2025 Juniorette of the Year

I have been honored to serve as the 2024–2025 President of the Bluebonnet Drama Club of Kingsville, Texas. This organization, founded in 1929, has been a beacon of service and empowerment for generations of young women. This past October, we celebrated an incredible milestone—95 years of community service to Kingsville and the surrounding areas.

The Bluebonnet Drama Club has been a life-changing experience for me. From the moment I joined, I gained confidence, learned to carry myself with poise, and discovered the power of standing up for what I believe in. Through this organization, I have found my voice and purpose, and I now understand that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a lasting difference.

In the past year, I've had the privilege of contributing to my community in numerous ways. Alongside my fellow officers, we raised awareness on important topics like self-defense, health, and the challenges young women face today. Beyond meetings, we actively volunteered in events that celebrate

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arts and culture, such as face painting at the local hospital and partnering with Texas A&M University-Kingsville during their La Posada Festival. We raised over \$8,000 through the Coastal Bend Day of Giving to support children at the ARK Assessment Center and helped fight food insecurity by stocking local pantries, including one church that feeds 80–100 children every Wednesday.

Through these efforts, I've not only developed leadership skills, but also deepened my empathy. I'm working on creating a clothing closet at my high school, providing students in need with the clothing and confidence to feel included.

In recognition of my community service, I was named GFWC Texas Juniorette of the Year for 2024–2025, which is a tremendous honor. This award reflects the work we do to make a positive impact, and I'm proud to be part of such a supportive and inspiring community.

Additionally, I was invited to speak at the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in June 2025 by GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil. It was an incredible experience to represent the Bluebonnet Drama Club on an international stage, where I shared our mission and learned from extraordinary women worldwide.

I am also a recent graduate of Santa Gertrudis Academy High School in Kingsville, TX, and this fall, I will attend the University of the Incarnate Word, where I plan to pursue a degree in health sciences.



(Left) Mia speaks to the GFWC Convention assembly and (Right) afterwards visits with GFWC International President Suellen Brazil.

From a young age, I have been driven by a deep desire to help others, inspired by those around me. I've carried this passion into everything I do, from volunteering at church retreats to working toward earning my Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. I've logged over 1,000 hours of community service during my high school years, and I remain committed to serving my community.

Being part of the Bluebonnet Drama Club for three years, including serving as president for the 2024–2025 year, has been a transformative experience. I've learned valuable leadership skills and have been shaped by the inspiring women around me. I give special thanks to my parents for their unwavering support—they've been my biggest cheerleaders and have encouraged me to always strive to be better.

As I look ahead, I am deeply grateful for all the opportunities I've had and the incredible women I've had the privilege of working with. I encourage everyone to think about how we can close generational gaps and empower those who come after us. Together, we continue not just a legacy, but a future of service, leadership, and empowerment.

Clubwoman Volunteer of the Year



Left to Right: GFWC TX President Barbara Harvey, Humberto Gonzalez (husband), Esmeralda Gonzalez, GFWC President Suellen Brazil.

2024 Clubwoman Volunteer of the Year Esmeralda Gonzalez, Woman's Club of Cotulla

(Corpus Christi) On the evening of May 1, 2025, Esmeralda (Esme) Gonzalez received the 2024 Outstanding Clubwoman Volunteer Award at the GFWC Texas Annual Spring Convention held at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. A devoted leader, Esme exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism through her unwavering service to the Woman's Club of Cotulla and the community of Cotulla. As corresponding secretary, she ensures communication runs smoothly, co-chairs the Reporting Committee, and streamlined volunteer tracking for accurate reporting. Esme also chairs the Kindergarten Fingerprinting program and is a constant presence at all Club events—donating time, items, and resources selflessly.

Since joining in 2018, Esme has been an indispensable volunteer, notably spearheading decorations and food coordination for the Club's 100th Anniversary celebration. Her service extends far beyond the Club: she is a Bible Study leader at Liberty Christian Church, a board member for CASA, a fundraising team member for the Children's Alliance of South Texas, and has chaired the LaSalle County Fair Parade for 11 years. Esme also helped launch the Beyond the Badge Scholarship, now awarding nearly \$15,000 in scholarships to local students. A Sergeant Investigator with the La Salle County Sheriff's Department since 2012, Esme balances professional demands with passionate civic engagement. Her record reflects a heart devoted to service, embodying the true essence of the Federation's mission.

Writing Contest Winners

Adult Poetry

First Place - Little Wild Rabbit by Judy Makus, GFWC The President's Council South Texas District

Youth Short Story – Category 1: Grades K, 1, & 2

First Place – The Soldiers & the Dragon by Franklin Hayes Vaclavik, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District

Second Place – Untitled by Athena Clarke, GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club - South Texas District.

Youth Short Story – Category 2, Grades 3, 4, & 5

First Place – The Adventures of Jacob and Rocky by Israel Ernesto Barrera, GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club - South Texas District.

Second Place – The Triangle by Ava Eichberger, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Youth Short Story – Category 3, Grades 6, 7, & 8

First Place – Harvest of Shadows by Annabelle Grace Roberts, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Second Place – Ezcaramza Charra by Ines Garcia, GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club - South Texas District.

Youth Short Story – Category 4, Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12

First Place – Disconnected from Reality by Cassidy Ann Mayo, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Second Place – Untitled by Jose Ines Maldonado, Jr., GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club - South Texas District.

Youth Poetry – Category 2, Grades 3, 4, & 5

First Place - Kiki by Aydan Martinez, GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club - South Texas District.

Second Place – Autumn Camping by Kamryn Ella Prock, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Youth Poetry – Category 3, Grades 6, 7, & 8

First Place - The Attributes of Night by Juliette Makus, GFWC The President's Council – South Texas District.

Second Place – Out of the Park by Nolan Vaclavik, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Youth Poetry – Category 4, Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12

First Place – Broken, but Beautiful by Jocelyn Brooke Ross, GFWC Decatur Woman's Club – Pioneer District.

Photography Contest Winners

Our World Up Close



1st

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Belinda Barton,
South Texas
District

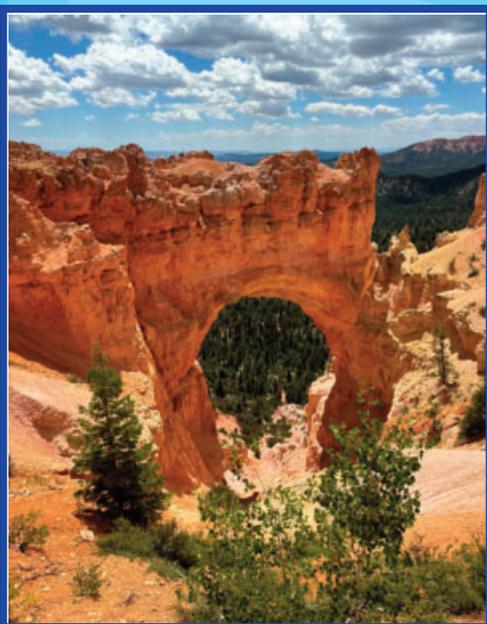
2nd

>

Judy Makus,
South Texas
District



Natural Wonders



1st

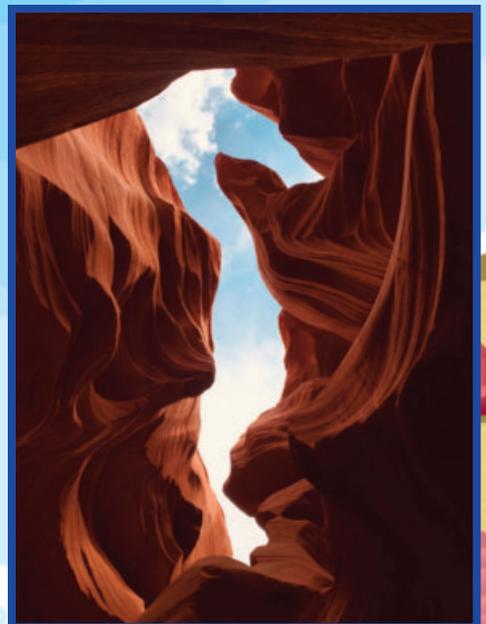
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Karen Strogner,
Trinity District

2nd

>

Cindy Moore,
South Texas
District



Photography Contest Winners Continued

Living the Volunteer Spirit



1st

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Keisha Head,
Trinity District

2nd

>

Betsy Cook,
Trinity District



Reflections



1st

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Patti Poe,
Pioneer District

2nd

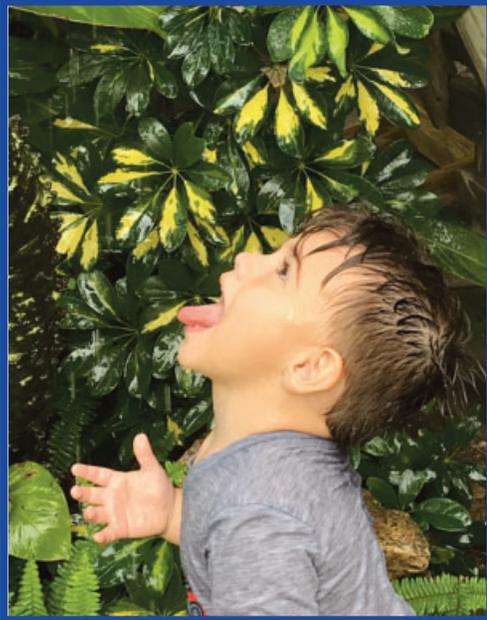
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Angela Short,
Pioneer District



Photography Contest Winners Continued

Texas Categories: Grandparent Gems



1st
<
Cindy Moore,
South Texas District

2nd
>
Judy Makus,
South Texas District



Texas Categories: Grandparent Gems



1st
<
Betsy Cook,
Trinity District

2nd
>
Keisha Head,
Trinity District



Yearbook Contest Results

Yearbook Content Gold Star Winners

Alamo District

- GFWC Bronte Club of Victoria
- GFWC The Decora Study Club
- GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla
- GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton

Capitol District

- GFWC Modern Study Club
- GFWC Monday Review Club
- GFWC Pierian Club
- GFWC The '36 Club
- GFWC Wednesday Review Club

Lone Star District

- GFWC Fortnightly Club

Magnolia District

- GFWC Silsbee Woman's Club
- GFWC Kirbyville Woman's Civic Club
- GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper

South Texas District

- GFWC The President's Council
- GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass
- GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club
- GFWC The Woman's Club of Ingleside

Trinity District

- GFWC Fairfield History Club
- GFWC Fidelis Inter Se Club
- GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow
- GFWC The History Club of Whitesboro
- GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club
- GFWC North Texas Woman's Club

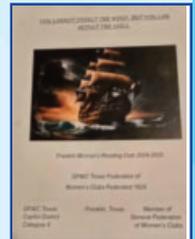
Yearbook Contest Results Continued

Cover Contest

America

First Place:

GFWC Franklin Woman's Reading Club, Capitol District



1st

Federation

First Place:

GFWC Fairfield History Club, Trinity District



1st

Second Place:

The Woman's Club Of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

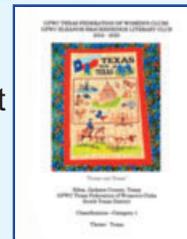


2nd

Texas

First Place:

GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District



1st

Second Place:

GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District



2nd

Volunteer

First Place:

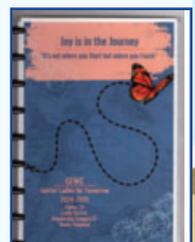
GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District



1st

Second Place:

GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District



2nd

Whimsical

First Place:

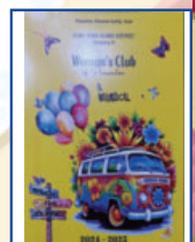
GFWC Wednesday Study Club, Pioneer District



1st

Second Place:

GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Alamo District



2nd

Results of the 2025 GFWC Texas Convention

Outstanding Texas Awards

Outstanding Americanism Program

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
2. GFWC The Woman's Monday Club, South Texas District
- Category III 1. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
2. GFWC Kirbyville Woman's Civic Club, Magnolia District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District
2. GFWC The Decora Study Club of Victoria, Alamo District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Gwen Martin, South Texas District
2. Pattye Graham, Pioneer District

Outstanding Federation Program

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
2. GFWC Silsbee Woman's Club, Magnolia District
- Category III 1. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
2. GFWC The History Club of Whitesboro, Trinity District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Aissa Diaz - South Texas District
2. Keisha Head - Trinity District

Outstanding Club Program

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
2. GFWC San Antonio Women's Federation, Alamo District
- Category III 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Alamo District
2. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Cammie Hyatt – South Texas District
2. Patsy Troell, Alamo District

Outstanding Club Woman District Report

1. Carol Habgood, Alamo District
2. Patricia Davis, Trinity District

GFWC Community Service Project Awards

Arts and Culture

- Category I 1. GFWC Culture Club of Sanderson, Western District
2. GFWC Cleveland's Woman Club, Magnolia District

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Continued from Page 26

- Category II 1. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Monday Club, South Texas District
- Category III 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC The History Club of Whitesboro, Trinity District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Joan Mathieu - Alamo District
- 2. Theresa Crow – Trinity District

Civic Engagement and Outreach

- Category I 1. GFWC Las Fidelis Study Club, Caprock District
- 2. GFWC The Dublin Woman's Thursday Club, Pioneer District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC Amity Study Club, Trinity District
- Category III 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District
- 2. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Mary Stockard, Pioneer District
- 2. Bridgette White, Magnolia District

Education and Libraries

- Category I 1. GFWC Cleveland Woman's Club, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC Twentieth Century Club, Western District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, South Texas District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC The Decora Study Club of Victoria, Alamo District
- Category V 1. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Dr. Norma Smith Tyler - Alamo District
- 2. Katherine Hajek – South Texas District

Environment

- Category I 1. GFWC Culture Club of Sanderson, Western District
- 2. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC Amity Study Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Fairfield History Club, Trinity District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC The Bronte Study Club of Victoria, Alamo District

Continued from Page 27

Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

Outstanding District Narrative 1. Harriet Villalpando - South Texas District
2. Lynda Barner - Magnolia District

Health and Wellness

Category I 1. GFWC Cleveland Woman's Club, Magnolia District

2. GFWC Austin Woman's Federated Club, Capitol District

Category II 1. GFWC Clover Club, Trinity District

2. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District

Category III 1. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District

2. GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District

Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

2. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District

Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

Outstanding District Narrative 1. Diane Davis (Koon) - Capitol District
2. Judy Makus - South Texas District

GFWC Special Programs

GFWC Jr.'s Special Program: Advocates for Children

Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District

2. GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club, Pioneer District

Category II 1. GFWC The Woman's Monday Club, South Texas District

2. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District

Category III 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Alamo District

2. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District

Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

2. GFWC The Bronte Study Club of Victoria, Alamo District

Category V 1. The Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

Outstanding District Narrative 1. Patricia Stevens - Alamo District
2. Debbie Unterbrink - South Texas District

GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

Category I 1. GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club, Pioneer District

2. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District

Category II 1. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District

2. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District

Category III 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District

2. GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District

Category IV 1. GFWC The Decora Study club of Victoria, Alamo District

2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

Category V 1. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District

2. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

Outstanding District Narrative 1.

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Continued from Page 28

TFWC President's Special Project: Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

- Category I 1. GFWC Las Fedelis Study Club, Caprock District
- 2. GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club, Pioneer District
- Category II 1. GFWC Amity Study Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Carolyn Strnadel - South Texas District
- 2. Fran Mask – Trinity District

GFWC Advancement Programs

Scholarship

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Culture Club of Sanderson, Western District
- Category II 1. GFWC San Antonio Women's Federation, Alamo District
- 2. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Alamo District
- 2. GFWC San Gabriel Woman's Club, Capitol District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
- Category V 1. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Gwen Martin – South Texas District
- 2. Sherry Eishen – Capitol District

Leadership

- Category I 1. GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC Cleveland Woman's Club, Magnolia District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC The History Club of Whitesboro, Trinity District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Judy Makus, South Texas District
- 2. Julia Napper, Magnolia District

Membership

- Category I 1. GFWC North Texas Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC Cleveland Woman's Club, Magnolia District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford, Pioneer District
- Category III 1. GFWC Kirbyville Woman's Civic Club, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District

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Continued from Page 29

- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Julia Napper, Magnolia District
- 2. Sue Mercer, Pioneer District

Communications and Publications

- Category I 1. GFWC Stephenville 20th Century Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC The Amity Study Club, Trinity District
- Category III 1. GFWC Fairfield History Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC Cotulla Woman's Club, Alamo District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Woman's Civic Club of Jasper, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Quinn Williams - Pioneer District
- 2. Pam Hoke – Magnolia District

Fundraising and Development

- Category I 1. GFWC Tau Lambda Study Club, Western District
- 2. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- Category III 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Pleasanton, Alamo District
- 2. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Category V 1. GFWC Fidelis Inter Se, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Carol Habgood – Alamo District
- 2. Christie Melton – Pioneer District

Legislation/Public Policy

- Category I 1. GFWC Twentieth Century Club, Western District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC San Antonio Women's Federation, Alamo District
- Category III 1. GFWC San Gabriel Woman's Club, Capitol District
- 2. GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District
- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Donna Parkinson – Trinity District
- 2. Beth Lewellen – Pioneer District

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Women's History and Resource Center

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Albany Study Club, Lone Star District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District

- Category III 1. GFWC Kirbyville Woman's Civic Club, Magnolia District
- 2. GFWC Florence J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- Category IV 1. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Julia Napper – Magnolia District
- 2. Jan Hamilton – Trinity District

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC San Antonio Women's Federation. Alamo District
- Category III 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Cotulla, Alamo District
- 2. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- Category IV 3. GFWC The Woman's Club of Aransas Pass, South Texas District

- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Novella Byrd – Alamo District
- 2. Wanda Godso – Trinity District

Texas Awards

Texas Heritage - Historical People

- Category I 1. GFWC Culture Club of Sanderson, Western District
- 2. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- Category II 1. GFWC The Amity Club, Pioneer District

- Category III 1. GFWC San Gabriel Woman's Club, Capitol District
- 2. GFWC F. J. Scott Woman's Club, South Texas District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District

- Outstanding District Narrative 1. Becky Milliken – Pioneer District
- 2. Carol Wright – Capitol District

Texas Heritage – Historical Place/Things

- Category I 1. GFWC Eleanor Brackenridge Literary Club, South Texas District
- 2. GFWC Dublin Woman's Thursday Club, Pioneer District
- Category II 1. GFWC Lake Area Woman's Club, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The '36 Club, Capitol District
- Category III 1. GFWC Decatur Woman's Club, Pioneer District
- 2. GFWC The History Club of Whitesboro, Trinity District
- Category IV 1. GFWC Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow, Trinity District
- 2. GFWC The Bronte Study Club of Victoria, Alamo District
- Category V 1. GFWC Woman's Club of Kingsville, South Texas District

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GFWC
ANNUAL CONVENTION
Atlanta
2025

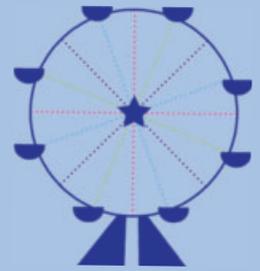
SPINNING VISION INTO REALITY

June 6-9, 2025





GFWC Texas was there!



GFWC Texas President-elect Novella Byrd carries the Texas Flag as GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey walks behind representing GFWC Texas.



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil is escorted onto the runway for the gala.



GFWC Texas attendees at the gala.

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It was "A Red Affair."





GFWC International President hugs Mia after her speech.



South Central Region luncheon with a "purse" theme?



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil addresses SCR attendees at luncheon.



Good times!



Celebrating the end of a very busy Spring for GFWC Texas. . . and Kathy Horak Smith's retirement later in the summer.

*Elvis
was in
the house!*



2025 LEADS Graduates:

New Chapter Begun in GFWC Texas Leadership Training



Back Row (Left to Right): Eva Bennett, Katherine Miller, Cammie Hyatt, Tracy Lamar, Julie Lunday-Booker. **Middle Row:** Dianne Casey, Annette Anderson, Pam Windham, Sue Mercer, Judy Makus, Pam Hoke. **Front Row:** Lou Hitt - GFWC Texas LEADS Chairman, Barbara Harvey - GFWC Texas President, and Novella Byrd - GFWC Texas President-elect.

(Corpus Christi) Twelve clubwomen were honored at a graduation ceremony upon the completion of the inaugural class of GFWC Texas LEADS at the recent GFWC Texas Spring Convention in Corpus Christi.

Since Texas is only allowed to send one representative to the annual GFWC Leadership and Development Seminar (LEADS), the national organization encourages state organizations to provide a similar training for its state members. This is the inaugural year for GFWC Texas to hold a state level LEADS training. In-person workshops were held for the twelve participants on the days before GFWC Texas Fall Board and Spring Convention. There were three additional zoom meetings held between the two state meetings.

Topics covered included types of leadership styles along with a survey to determine each participant's individual style, GFWC and TFWC history, body language, how to run a successful meeting, conflict management, setting goals, creating a vision, GFWC protocol, how to increase participation, tips on organizing a meeting, giving a speech with ways to use technology during your talk, parliamentary procedure, identifying and building leaders, creating a line of succession, transitioning to a new leadership team, and resources for further studies.

Congratulations to the new Texas LEADS graduates!

1932

The first national meeting of the honorary educational society, **EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON**, is held at the GFWC Convention in Seattle, Washington. Founded in 1928 by the Indiana Federation of Clubs, ESO promotes self-improvement through a planned reading program.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED

in response to an increasing number of younger women participating in volunteer community service.



1934

GFWC's Division on Public Health created the Women's Field Army in partnership with the American Society for the Control of Cancer, now the **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**. Hugely successful, the initiative raised public awareness and funding to promote cancer prevention and early detection.





Barbara Winingham

President
Texas Federation
of Women's Clubs

2004 - 2006



Barbara Ann (Garrett) Winingham went home to the Lord on March 25, 2025. Barbara was the daughter of Henry and Lorine (Lindsay) Garrett, and was born on December 16, 1933, in Bowie, Texas.

Barbara graduated from Bowie High School in 1950 and attended Midwestern University with a full music scholarship. She was a member of the Texas Governor Shriver's official band in 1951 and performed at the Governor's inauguration. She continued her education and graduated from the Baylor University School of Medical Technology.

On September 6, 1952, Barbara and James Lee Winingham married and took residence in Fairbanks, Alaska, where James was stationed while serving as a sergeant in the U. S. Army during the Korean War. Barbara was employed by the hospital there. They welcomed a daughter, Donna Elaine and later moved back to Bowie in 1955 when James secured employment with the United States Postal Service.

Their family grew with the additions of Marilyn (1957), Janet (1962), and David (1967). Barbara cited that the greatest achievement of her life was her four children. And, as a supportive parent, she was very active in a variety of school activities. Serving as President of PTA on a local level led to a District PTA President position. That resulted in her then serving eight years on the Texas PTA Board of Directors. Her children's involvement in the Bowie Band program brought Barbara's leadership skills into play as she served in all offices of the Band Parent's Association, including as President in 1973. She performed in the annual Band Parents Show for 25 years and was the show's director on three occasions. She also served as piano accompanist for band students' solos in regional and state competition for 15 years.

Being a registered technologist, Barbara's career spanned 35 years where she worked in the lab of multiple hospitals and clinics in the area including Westgate Hospital in Denton (9 yrs), Nocona General Hospital in Nocona (2 yrs), and the Bowie Hospital.

Barbara was a long-term member of the First Baptist Church in Bowie. She served as pianist, soloist, and choir director (summer of 1957) and taught a Sunday School class since 1956. Her other achievements include:

- GFWC Texas The Amity Club member - 70 years.**
- 2004-2006 President of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.**
- Bowie Citizen of the Year (1989).
- Charter Member of the City of Bowie's 4B Economic Board.

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Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 16 member - 73 years.

As appointed by the governor, she served 25 years as Vice Chairman of the Texas Health Reinsurance System; 4 years on the Texas Education Agency's Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee, and 8 years Texas Affiliate American Heart Association (AHA), and served as chairman of the AHA Risk Task Force.

Member of the National Parliamentarian's Association.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames 17th Centruy and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Listed in "Who's Who in the South."

Texas Farm Bureau's Pioneer District 3 Winner in 2002.

Jennie Award, General Federation of Women's Clubs, 2019.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents, Henry Garrett and Lorine (Lindsay Garrett) Seed; stepfather, Charlie O. Seed; brother Talmadge Garrett.

Survivors are her husband, James; daughters: Donna, Templeton, CA; Marilyn and husband, Kenneth Judy of Crawford, TX; Janet Monkres of Forney, TX; son, David and wife, Beth, Bowie, TX.; ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



Juanita Martin Bryant

General Federation of Women's Clubs International President 1982–1984

With deep sadness, we share that Juanita Martin Bryant, beloved GFWC International Past President (1982–1984), passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, surrounded by her devoted family.

Juanita was a guiding light in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, known for her wisdom, warmth, and unwavering commitment to service.

Her leadership left an indelible mark on GFWC, inspiring generations of clubwomen to lead with purpose and heart. As we mourn her passing, we celebrate her remarkable legacy.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites memorial contributions to be made to:

GFWC Women's History and Resource Center

1734 N Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20036

Sympathy cards may be sent to her daughter:

Debra Bryant

905 Cedarhurst Drive

Raleigh, NC 27609



Elizabeth "Liz" Morelan

Trinity District Life Member Emeritus

GFWC Trinity District Life Member Emeritus Elizabeth "Liz" Morelan loved the Federation and her Federation Sisters fiercely. She wore her ribbons with some of her many pins even when she was hospitalized in order to describe to doctors, nurses, and anyone who would listen what GFWC is all about. She will be missed.



Frances Stewardson Skiles

President
Texas Federation
of Women's Clubs

1982 - 1984



(Weatherford, Texas) Frances Stewardson Skiles, 98, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Monday, July 14, 2025 in Weatherford.

Visitation: 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 21, 2025 in White's Chapel of Memories, 130 Houston Ave., Weatherford. The Funeral Service will follow at 10:30 a.m. Interment: East Greenwood Cemetery, 500 E. Front St., Weatherford.

Frances was born April 8, 1927 in Shields, Texas, daughter of Hardy & Birdie (Barton) Stewardson. She married Sammie Earl Skiles and they spent many happy years together prior to his passing in 2002. Frances was a longtime resident of Weatherford and had a dedicated career in the banking industry. She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church. Frances loved her Lord and her family with all of her heart.



Frances was a current member of the Twentieth Century Club of Weatherford and for 35 years before her tenure as President of GFWC Texas (1982 - 1984). Her theme as GFWC Texas President was "Unity in Diversity - Volunteer Efforts" and "Unity in Diversity - Volunteer Leadership + Youth = Community Improvements."

Her Installation was at Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth with the Honorable Jim Wright, Congressman of the 12th Congressional District, serving as the installing officer. She was named Outstanding Citizen of Wetherford and Parker County that same year. She was the oldest living past president of GFWC Texas, having made many friends across the state.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Sammie Earl Skiles.

Frances is survived by her son, Harold Skiles; grandson, Shane Skiles; many nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family members and church friends.

“What’s Been Brewing?”

Odds and Ends of GFWC Texas Club Activities



Alamo District Holds Spring Convention in Victoria

(Victoria, Texas) GFWC Texas Alamo District members are always delighted when their meeting is scheduled at the Victoria Women’s Clubhouse built in 1957. It is not only a meeting place for Federation clubs but is a center for civic and social events. It has been for decades a cherished venue for birthdays, anniversaries and weddings (available for rent to the community of Victoria).

Spring Convention held on March 1, 2025, brought together a total of 29 members from San Antonio Women’s Federation, Woman’s Club of Cotulla, Decora Study Club of Victoria, Woman’s Club of Pleasanton and Bronte Club of Victoria.

Spring meetings highlight the work of all clubs when Certificates of Award for first and second place in the many categories of GFWC are announced. There were 55 awards for 2024. It was quite the honor to have State Officers present. GFWC President Barbara Harvey and GFWC President-elect Novella Byrd are inspiring speakers. They connect club members with the greater scope of the work happening in Texas and across the country.

Particular to this meeting was a raffle drawing begun at Fall Board 2024. The prizes were high quality jewelry items. The fundraiser was in preparation for the 2026 Installation of Novella Byrd as GFWC Texas President who is from Woman’s Club of Cotulla in Alamo District. It is smart to prepare and plan ahead and members met the call to do so with ticket sales of \$8,000. Alamo District will be a confident host for the 129th GFWC Texas Annual Spring Convention April 29 – May 3, 2026.

Send your club/district news to:
Lindalovesblue@yahoo.com

Lone Star Administrative District Staying Busy

– Katherine Hajek

Although the Lone Star District did not hold a Spring Convention, our clubs have remained active and committed to service. The unique geography of our district, with six clubs spread across the state, makes it challenging to meet in person. However, that has not hindered the dedication of our clubs to support their communities. Here is a glimpse into the inspiring work being done across the Lone Star Administrative District:

- The Fortnightly Club of Brenham works year-round collecting books for their annual book sale, which raises over \$37,000 to support the local library. They also help stock and maintain community reading boxes, along with contributing to numerous other local projects.



The Fortnightly Club of Brenham

- The Albany Study Club of Albany partners with the local library, museum, and community quilt shows. This summer, they are collaborating with the Shackelford County Library and the Old Jail Art Center to host a summer reading program for local youth.



The Albany Study Club of Albany

- The Literati Club supports both their local library and the Main House at Stephen F. Austin University through generous monetary donations and volunteer service.
- The 1936 Study Club of Avinger recently hosted a Kentucky Derby–themed luncheon, held a successful bake sale, and partnered with the local Student Council and Garden Club to clean and beautify the city park flower beds.

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The 1936 Study Club
of Avinger



Several members of our district also participated in GFWC Texas Day at the Capitol on May 13. It was a powerful experience to witness the legislative process in action and to be formally recognized in both chambers. Members had the opportunity to meet with representatives, advocating for stronger laws and greater awareness of the devastating impact human trafficking for sexual exploitation has on our communities.

The Lone Star District continues to rise above logistical challenges, demonstrating the heart of volunteer service and the strength of our Federation.

GFWC Texas Western District Holds Spring Convention

(Alpine, Texas) The GFWC Texas Western District convened their 2025 Spring Convention at the AEP Meeting room of the Alpine Public Library on March 29, 2025 in Alpine, TX. A warm sunny day brought 23 members and 2 guests in attendance. The Executive Committee meeting started at 9:00 am and the general meeting followed at 10:00 am. Thereafter, each officer reported what she has accomplished and to continue to do in conjunction of her office.

Guest Speaker Cinderela Guevara, County Liason Officer, Texas Division of Emergency Management, spoke on "Preparing for natural and weather related disaster" Lunch followed, which was catered by Picnic Basket Alpine.

After a short break to visit the various gifts donated by each club for the silent auction to raise funds for the Western District, Guest TFWC 2nd VP Kathy Hajek of Kingsville, TX, provided a preview of the GFWC Texas Spring Convention to be held in Corpus Christi, TX. Every member was encouraged to attend.

Then each club president reported the highlights of their club projects for the year. Another break followed for the announcements of winners of the silent auction and attendees also purchased sweet tomatoes from Village Farms whom many look forward to support the local and international producers in their cities. Funds raised were donated to Texas Disasters.

Mary Vongsavath, an Alpine resident and previous member of Alpine Woman's Club until 2010 and currently member of Tau Lambda Study Club in Monahans, TX, gave a heartfelt memorial for TFWC Past President Barbara Winingham, from Bowie, TX, who passed away this year. As one of Barbara's 14 District Presidents (DP), Mary came to know Barbara well and was able to share stories of Barbara's commitment to TFWC and the women who work around the state in support of our communities. Barbara encouraged each woman to do her best in service to her district, club, and community.

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Past District President JoAnne McClurg of Midland, TX remembered Harriet Berlin, a past District President from Odessa, Tx, who had a sweet singing voice that she shared at many meetings.

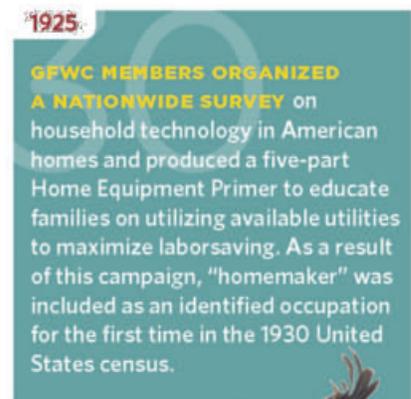
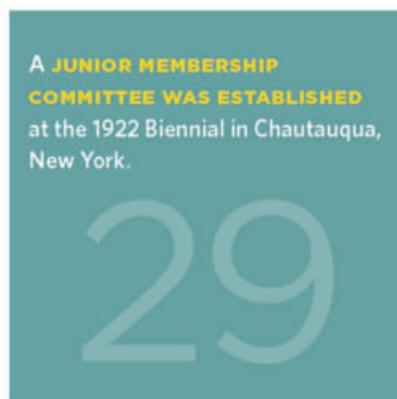
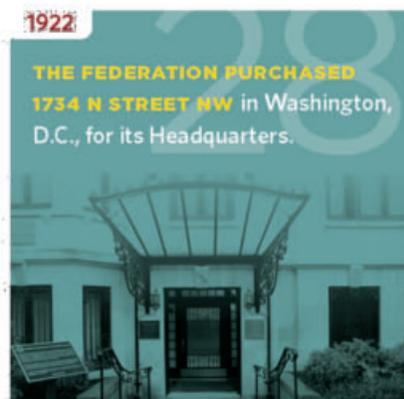
Lavelle Counts, Registration Chairman, reported the final count of 23 members and 2 guests in attendance coming from Midland, Monahans, Sanderson, Alpine, Marfa, and Kingsville, TX. Appreciation was extended to Alpine Woman's club for hosting this meeting.

Mary Vongsavath presented the New GFWC Brand Poster posted on the Podium and arranged for attendees to receive an imprinted Alpine, TX blue drawstring tote as souvenir from the Alpine Visitors Center. The totes contained maps and brochure, information on Big Bend, Texas Mountains & the Alpine area. In an effort to remind members, flyers of GFWC International Day of Service on Sept 27, 2025, about "End Domestic and Sexual Violence" were distributed. Each club is reminded to participate/register as soon as possible in this annual designated event so that all clubs in the 50 states as well as our International Affiliates can make a big impact in our respective cities/towns/countries. In addition, a copy of the GFWC Texas Clubwoman Newsletter (Fall issue) was readily available for members to bring home to read.

Everyone was glad to attend a wonderful meeting that ended with a recitation of "A Collect for Clubwomen" at 4:00 pm.



Seated, Left to Right: Maridel Fryar, Becky Melius, Linda Grant, Joyce Watts, Shirley Bagley, Noreen Gehan, Jan Woodward. Second Row, Left to Right: Amy Struthers, Christine Hinkle, Mary Vongsavath, Lavelle Counts, Lindy Strumberg, Candy Calzada, Mary Kay Rose, Kathy Hajek, GFWC Texas 2nd Vice President, Gerri Davis, JoAnne Seaman, JoAnne McClurg, Nancy Williams. Third Row, Left to right: Faye Mayhall, Donna Haupt, Melissa Farley, Candy Whyman, and Allison Vidal.



Third Annual GFWC History Club Spring Social and Fashion Show A Delightful Success

(Whitesboro, Texas) The GFWC History Club, GFWC Texas, Trinity District, held their third annual fashion show at Ranch 82 in Whitesboro , Texas on May 2, 2025.

Twenty-five club members and local businesses in Whitesboro worked together to make this year's fashion show and scholarship fundraiser a success. Guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres and door prizes were given away throughout the show. This year, thirty-five fashion models, including local high school students and residents of all ages, modeled various spring fashion lines and clothing from six area boutiques. This year's



event included a stage from which to model. DJ Jess set the mood with music, and Whyte Line Photography captured memories of the afternoon.



To help strengthen their opportunity to earn money for the club's 2025 Scholarship Fund, a Consuela bag was raffled off at the end of the event. This year's event was made possible in part by title sponsor Trinity Title of Texas and fourteen other local Whitesboro area businesses. The club was able to raise \$7,000 this year before expenses to provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors. One Hundred and Thirty-two guests attended this year's show, including special guests from two local women's clubs - Gunter Ladies for Tomorrow and Lake Area Woman's Club of Gordonville. GFWC Texas History Club member and Trinity District Life Member Emeritus, Liz Morlan, attended and GFWC Texas State President Barbara Harvey was in the house.

Silsbee Woman's Club Hosts Magnolia District Convention

(Silsbee) Magnolia District celebrated their Spring Convention on March 22, 2025 with 38 federation sisters in attendance. The Silsbee Woman's Club hosted a fun, engaging convention complete with wonderful fellowship, great food and lots of door prizes. The Kirbyville Woman's Club took the lead on the district fundraiser by coming up with the very successful idea of a silent auction of decorated tiered trays.

Convention attendees were welcomed by Silsbee Mayor, Danny Reneau, who read a

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proclamation recognizing GFWC, GFWC Texas and GFWC Texas Magnolia District clubwomen for their work to “better the lives of their neighbors, make towns safer and more beautiful, and extend the hand of friendship to individuals near and far.” Mayor Reneau ended his remarks by declaring March 22, 2025 as GFWC Texas Magnolia District Day in Silsbee.



GFWC President, Barbara Harvey, provided an update on her program addressing human trafficking for sexual purposes and reminded attendees of the planned Day at the Capitol.

Attendees brought hygiene items or made cash donations to the Embracing Freedom Shelter in Beaumont which provides services to victims of human trafficking. Sixty (60) clubs were recognized for their work across 20 categories as awards were announced and outstanding work recognized. Emily Holt of the Silsbee Woman’s Club was recognized for her many years of service by being named the newest Magnolia District Life Member.

Capitol District Spring Convention Held in Killeen

(Killeen, Texas) Capitol District held their Spring Convention in Killeen, Texas, on April 2, 2025. In attendance were 46 club ladies, three special guests and 11 first time attendees.

We were welcomed by the Mayor of Killeen Debbie Nash-King who presented us with a Proclamation celebrating GFWC's 135th Anniversary and the longevity of our two Killeen Clubs, Wednesday Review Club & Modern Study Club.



Overall, Capitol District awarded 43 district awards for 1st & 2nd place winners for GFWC Special and Community Service Programs, including Gold Star Yearbooks, Yearbook Cover Design, LEADS and Clubwoman of the Year Award.

Sherry Eishen, Wednesday Review Club, was our District (& Texas) LEADS Candidate & Juliann Chaney, with The '36 Club, was our Clubwoman of the Year award winner.

Luncheon speaker was Krisha Cook, S.A.N.E (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) with Brave Alliance CTX. She shared information about the process of collecting forensic medical exams, evidence collection, courtroom testimony and their collaborations with law enforcement and district attorneys. This highly specialized nursing work leads to the arrests and incarceration of

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physical abusers and sexual assault perpetrators across Central Texas.

Overall, we had a wonderful 2025 Spring Convention and awards season!



Upper: Killeen Mayor Debbie Nash-King presents a Proclamation celebrating GFWC's 135th Anniversary and the longevity of our two Killeen Clubs, Wednesday Review Club & Modern Study Club. GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey (second from right) attended the district convention.

Left: Sherry Eishen, Wednesday Review Club, was selected as our District (& Texas) LEADS Candidate.

South Texas District Convention Recap

Our GFWC South Texas District President Cammie Hyatt gave us her presidents report as well as recognition to the beautiful work our host Club, GFWC F.J. Scott Woman's Club did making this such a lovely and cheerful convention. The room was filled with so many spring colors and beautiful butterflies.

Lori Perez was our speaker. She gave a fantastic presentation that was extremely informative on how to prepare ourselves with the proper legal documents for end of life care and management.

Our GFWC Texas President Barbara Harvey who is always so eloquent and delightful, spoke about the upcoming GFWC Texas Day at the Capitol. She also presented us with important information on her special project, Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes.

Mary Nettie Rodriguez is seen sharing with members the story and purpose of the little traveling bear packaged and donated years ago by Gwen Martin's daughter, Audree Martin who was then, 7 years old. Audree, now 10 years old, insists each year to give her own contribution to the silent auction to do her part to earn money for GFWC South Texas District. Each year members bid on this little bear with the understanding that the winning bidder is to bring the bear back to the next convention to again be placed in the silent auction. Audree makes additional silent auction contributions every spring and fall, but to date, Audree's little traveling bear has changed hands multiple times. The bear alone has earned the South Texas district over \$200.



Calendar of Events

September 2025 - May 2026

2025



September 4-7 GFWC South Central Region Meeting, Courtyard SA, Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas.



September 26-27 GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Austin, Texas.



September 27 GFWC International Day of Service

October 4 South Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

October 11 Pioneer Fall Board of Directors Meeting, Comanche, Texas.

October 15 Capitol Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

October 18 Magnolia Fall Board of Directors Meeting.



World Singing Day

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.

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March 21	Magnolia Spring Convention.
March 28	Pioneer Spring Convention, Decatur, Texas.
April 1	Capitol Spring Convention
April 29 - May 3	GFWC Texas Spring Convention

Calendar will be updated each issue.

Save the Date:

**GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting
September 26–27, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Austin Northwest Arboretum**

Make plans now to attend the GFWC Texas Fall Board of Directors Meeting, scheduled for September 26–27, 2025. We'll be staying once again at the Doubletree by Hilton Austin Northwest Arboretum.

This meeting will take place during the GFWC International Day of Service, which focuses on Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention. GFWC Texas will continue its emphasis on the President's Special Project: Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes, an important issue within this area of concern.

While the hotel is confirmed, we are still finalizing the location of all meeting sessions. More details will be shared soon, including the full agenda and how clubs can participate in service activities related to this important day.

Please save the date—and stay tuned!



FIESTA WITH A PURPOSE



GFWC

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

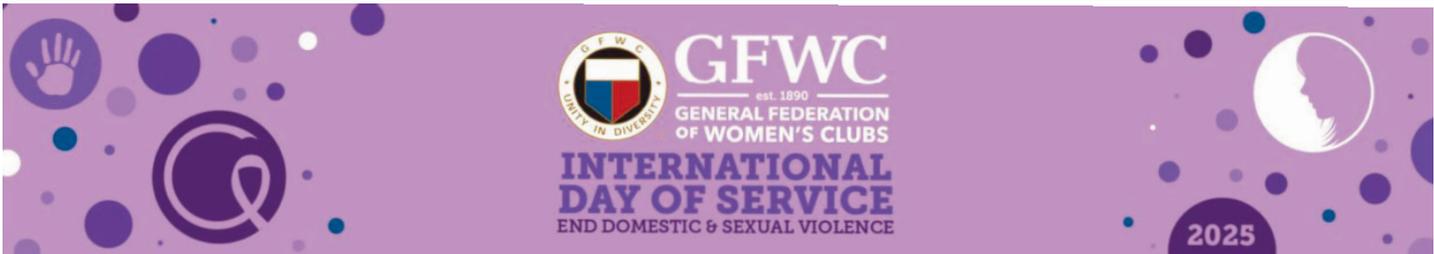
South Central Region

GFWC SOUTH CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2025





Need Ideas? Spark Your GFWC International Day of Service Project with a Powerful Idea!

Each week in News & Notes, GFWC shares inspiring ideas to help you create a meaningful impact on September 27—our GFWC International Day of Service (GFWC IDS)—or during the week of September 21–27, if your club needs flexibility.

One exciting project idea is hosting a House Party to support shelters that serve survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This isn't just a gathering—it's a purposeful way to educate your community, collect much-needed items, and show solidarity with survivors.

To help bring this idea to life, Tina Smith, GFWC New Hampshire Signature Program Chairman and board member of the NH Coalition, will present practical “How-To” tips on organizing a successful House Party. All GFWC members are invited to attend this engaging educational Zoom session to gain insight and inspiration for this project.

Whether you choose to educate your community, collect supplies, or host a discussion, your House Party can be tailored to meet the unique needs of your community. It does not need to be a fundraising event—the heart of the effort is education, action, and direct support.

Don't miss this opportunity to create a real impact!



Dear GFWC Texas Clubwomen,

This GFWC Texas Communications and Public Relations Chairman received approval from President Harvey and First Vice-president/Dean of Reporting Dr. Kathy Horak-Smith to conduct a state project. It was announced at the Spring Convention in Corpus Christi.

A Day of Singing was founded by Colorado musician Scott Johnson in 2012 to encourage people to come together to sing. It has since blossomed into a worldwide phenomenon, inspiring communities to join in song.

Since it has gone global, it is now called World Singing Day. It is always the third Saturday in October. That means this year it will be on October 18.

For the state project, every club can hold a World Singing Day in October. It can be advertised in newspapers, on Facebook, radio stations, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, flyers in store windows, or any place deemed appropriate. The main point is GET our NAME out there! You can create your own post, or you can use the one the CPR committee will create and send to you. You can sing in groups, in the shower, in the car – just sing. Kathy Horak Smith even suggested that every club sing at their October meeting. (What could be easier?) Be sure to report your volunteer hours to your club president or reporting chairman for her records.

This project can be reported in Communications and Public Relations (you are advertising it), Arts and Culture (singing is an art), Health and Wellness (singing has a lot of health benefits both physical and mental), Education and Libraries (teaching a new song), Advocates for Children, or Civic Engagement and Outreach – anywhere you want to use it. Just please use it - and we will be more visible in our communities and in the public.

Our GFWC Texas webmaster, Katherine Hajek, will add the line for the state project onto the statistical form that all the club presidents and district presidents submit.

This chairman has done this the last three years. She only learned about it the day before the singing day, so the first year (2022) the clubwomen simply sang “Happy Birthday”. The second year (2023) they sang “Stand By Me” (which turned out to be the official song, but they didn’t know that at the time.) Last year (2024) they sang a mash up of “We Are the World” and “Imagine” (the official song). You can sing anything you want. There will be an official song announced for 2025 if you would like to sing that one. A favorite you could sing is the song we sing to close our state and international conventions – “Let There be Peace on Earth.”

There is a fantastic YouTube video that you can watch – I will put the link at the bottom of this email.

This chairman would like to share this from the World Singing Day website:

“World Singing Day is not religious or political and encourages people to put aside their differences and celebrate what we all share as human beings. World Singing Day is for everyone, regardless of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, singing ability, and age. World Singing Day is a joyful community experience for musicians and non-musicians alike, from shower singers to celebrities, as they gather in their communities and sing together without the pressure of performing. World Singing Day is not a competition, and no rehearsals are required. Anyone can join in the fun.”

This chairman looks forward to everyone using World Singing Day to publicize GFWC – how it impacts our towns, state, and world.

<https://youtu.be/BmckMbjKwSU?si=gSNFL2CqML0YYY83>

BECOME A YTP VOLUNTEER!

TUESDAY, MAY 14TH | 12-1 PM EST | VIRTUAL



LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- PLANT TULIPS & CARE FOR A LOCAL HOPE GARDEN
- HOST A COMMUNITY EVENT OR FUNDRAISER
- SHARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Our World:

Ride 4 - A Woman Helping Women, Children and Rural Communities

(Bwindi, Uganda) R4W is an organization that helps women and children in dire circumstances in Bwindi, Uganda. They started by renting bicycles to tourists (thus the name) and then added basket weaving using natural fibers and dyes. And using beautiful African fabric, they began sewing a wide variety of clothing, bags and quilts to sell to tourists. These sales, along with donations, are how they exist.

Without private schools, children have little hope for an education. Young girls who cannot attend school because of lack of funds end up doing hard labor working in the fields with no hope of change. As a result, they begin “working along the road” or “working at night.” Or they get married very young and begin having babies. The average women has 6 - 7 children and the husband rarely stays around to help. Multiple wives are not uncommon.

School Sponsorship for one year of private school costs \$500. This includes classes, boarding, nutritious meals, medical services, uniforms, shoes & everything required to attend school. Ruth, 5, and Miracle, 8, are in private school thanks to sponsors.



Bwindi is a small rural village with staggering poverty, little electricity, and no running water. The only reason tourists go to Bwindi is because the main road dead ends at the Mountain Gorilla Refuge. R4W helps support over 300 women and children in and around Bwindi and, from what we know, it is the only organization helping the community. Tourism is seasonal – no one visits in the rainy season so there is no income from sales during those times.

In 2021 Ron and I were on a trip to see the Great Migration of wildebeests & zebras in Eastern Africa. Our trip began in Bwindi, Uganda, where we were to trek to see gorillas. In 2023, we returned to R4W & I worked with the women for 5 days teaching quilting techniques. They made 9 quilts and they had never seen a quilt pattern!

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Before Christmas, Evelyn raised funds to purchase basic food items for needy families. A \$25 purchase included maize flour, rice, sugar, salt, cooking oil and maybe a few fresh onions and very little meat. She was able to present 100 such gifts to needy families. Imagine considering these basics a Christmas gift!

R4W conducts programs such as Hope for a Girl Child. This program counsels young girls to delay marriage as well as provides birth control information and lots more. Similar to the Heifer Project, a goat can be donated to a

family. A goat costs \$80 and first kid born is returned to R4W. From then on the goat belongs to the family and is a safety net when funds are needed for an emergency such as sickness. The goat is the savings account.

R4W is also installing solar panels on homes. One solar panel with battery and cables costs \$200 and the rule is that a family who receives a panel must invite the children in 5 surrounding homes to come use the light to study at night. The added benefit is that the children are helping each other with school work.



There is no running water in Bwindi so R4W has a purification system set up for the community to come and fill containers of clean water. Women carry this water to their homes.

You simply cannot imagine what these women endure in their private lives. Every morning, the work day at R4W begins with "Shake Off". The women sing and recite Bible passages. One woman will stand and tell her wrenching story. This is so they can shake off the horrors that they may endure at home and have a pleasant and positive work day. The women are happy at R4W. They are paid and receive a nutritious free lunch. They laugh and life is good - for the day. R4W gives these women hope for a future they otherwise would not have.



If you are able to make a donation, no contribution is too small. Every dollar makes a difference! All funds go directly to R4W because Ron and I are covering all fees. If you donate \$100, we deposit \$100 in Evelyn's bank account.

For more information feel free to contact Ron or Ann Lauer Waterman at 406-443-2694 or Ann@GrizzlyGulchGallery.com.

There is an article on my website that tells the story of R4W with lots of photos. Please share this link with anyone who may be interested. <https://grizzlygulchgallery.com/african-quilters/>

To Donate use this QR code for Go Fund Me or the link below. <https://www.gofundme.com/ride-4-a-woman-in-uganda-africa>

