



**LOU HITT**

**Decatur Woman's Club**

***Candidate for GFWC Texas Second Vice President – Pioneer District***

Lou Hitt was raised on a peanut farm in Comanche, Texas, alongside her identical twin sister, Sue, her older sister, Geneva, and her brother, Wayne. From an early age, family responsibilities helped shape her strong work ethic, resilience, and lifelong commitment to teamwork, leadership, and service to others.

To help fund her education, Lou sewed for the public while supporting her family. Married to her high school sweetheart, Roger, and the mother of a young daughter, she attended night classes and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education from Texas Woman's University in just 3½ years. She earned her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education three years later, continuing her commitment to excellence in education.

Lou dedicated 36 years to education as a Kindergarten teacher in Decatur ISD, where she served on numerous campus and district committees and mentored fellow educators. Her excellence in teaching earned her recognition as Lead Teacher, two-time Teacher of the Year, Best Teacher in Wise County, Region 11 Elementary Teacher of the Year (2013), and Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year state semifinalist (2014), reflecting her passion for student success and educational leadership.

Volunteerism has always been central to Lou's life. She has served as a PTO officer, 4-H leader, and Band Boosters leadership team member. She continues to judge 4-H events, assist with the Wise County Youth Fair Food Show, and support special needs students through programs such as the Heart of a Champion Livestock Show and Sunflower Camp, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to youth and community service.

Lou is also an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, where she has served as Area Coordinator and chaired numerous state committees. She led the 2021 State Convention with more than 800 attendees and currently serves as Personal and Professional Enrichment Chairman, coordinating nearly 100 breakout sessions. Her leadership and service have been recognized with both chapter and state achievement awards.

She joined the Decatur Junior Woman's Club in 1977 and became a member of GFWC Texas Decatur Woman's Club in 2005. She has faithfully served in all club offices, including President (2012–2014), and was honored as Club Woman of the Year and Pioneer District Volunteer of the Year. She continues her service as Parliamentarian and remains actively involved in report writing and club leadership.

At the district level, Lou served as Pioneer District Second Vice President (2016–2018) and advanced through multiple leadership roles to District President (2022–2024). During her presidency, she led the development and implementation of district Standing Rules and continues to serve as Pioneer District HF Trustee, supporting ongoing district initiatives.

At the state level, Lou served as President of District Presidents (2022–2024), Secretary of HF Trustees, and currently serves as TFWC HF Chairman and Vice President of the State Past District Presidents Club. She chaired the 2023 GFWC Texas Convention in Denton, coordinating all aspects of the event, and is a 2020 LEADS representative who now serves as Texas LEADS Chairman, where she developed and implemented a statewide leadership program.

Lou has attended all state, South Central Region, and GFWC conventions from 2017–2025 and has contributed to numerous convention committees. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading and has achieved Second Century level in ESO. She and her husband, Roger, enjoy traveling, attending Texas A&M football games, and Texas Rangers Spring Training, and have visited all 50 states and 13 countries.

Lou remains deeply committed to Federation and to serving others. She seeks to continue using her experience, dedication, and leadership skills in service as GFWC Texas Second Vice President.



**KATHERINE HAJEK**

*Woman's Club of Kingsville*

*Candidate for GFWC Texas First Vice President – South Texas District*

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Katherine Hajek joined the Woman's Club of Kingsville, Junior Women's Department, in 1983 and has dedicated more than four decades to leadership, service, and the growth of Federation. Throughout her years of service, she has chaired numerous committees and held key leadership roles, including Vice Chairman and Department Chairman (2004–2006, 2010–2012). She later transitioned to the TREND Department, where she served as Treasurer (2016–2018), Chairman (2018–2020, 2021–2022), Vice Chairman (2020–2022), and Federation Counselor.

Her commitment to developing future leaders is reflected in her extensive work with youth. Katherine served nine years as a Juniette Sponsor (2001–2004, 2005–2008, 2014–2017), in addition to serving as Juniette Chair of Sponsors and Juniette Advisor. Within her home club, she has been a dedicated member of the Executive Board, serving as First Vice President and President-Elect (2014–2016), President (2016–2018), and Presidential Advisor (2017–2019, 2022–2024).

Katherine continues her active service as Federation Counselor Chairman (2018–present), By-Laws Committee member (2012–2016, 2018–present), and Fundraising Chairman (2022–present). She also manages the club's website, assists with communications, and plays a key role in federation reporting and organizational continuity.

At the district level, Katherine has been a committed leader in the South Texas District through the Presidents' Council of Corpus Christi and the Woman's Monday Club. Her service includes Reporter (2018–2020) and Treasurer (2020–present), along with leadership roles as Yearbook Chairman, First Vice President, President-Elect, and District President (2022–2024).

At the state level, she has served as Chairman of Resolutions and was selected as the 2021 LEADS candidate representing Texas at the GFWC International Convention. She currently serves as GFWC Texas Webmaster and Constant Contact Coordinator, as well as Second Vice President. Her contributions include leading membership workshops, supporting recruitment and retention efforts, mentoring district leaders, and serving on the GFWC Membership Task Force and the 2025 Spring Convention panel.

Katherine retired from Texas A&M University–Kingsville after 40 years of dedicated service, including 38 years at the James C. Jernigan Library. She and her husband, Vernon, have been married 45 years and are the proud parents of three daughters and grandparents of one granddaughter. Katherine remains deeply committed to Federation and continues to “live the volunteer spirit” through her leadership and service.



**Dr. Kathy Horak Smith**

***Stephenville 20th Century Study Club***

***Candidate for GFWC Texas President-elect – Pioneer District***

Dr. Kathy Horak Smith has been an active and dedicated member of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs since 1999. As a member of the Stephenville 20th Century Study Club, she has served in numerous leadership roles including Committee Chair, First Vice President, President-Elect, and President.

At the district level, Kathy has demonstrated exceptional leadership, serving as Pioneer District President, President Pro-Tem, President-Elect, and Second Vice President. She has also contributed as TFWC Scholarship Representative, Education Chair, Scholarship Chair, and Leadership Chair.

Her service at the state level reflects her continued commitment and expertise. Kathy served as Photography Chairman (2016–2020), Scholarship Committee Member (2016–2018, 2020–2022), and Long-Range Planning Committee Member (2018–2020, 2022–2024, 2024–2026). She also held the roles of President of District Presidents (2018–2020), Education and Library State Chair (2020–2022), and Second Vice President and Dean of Membership (2022–2024). She currently serves as First Vice President and Dean of Reporting (2024–2026).

In Stephenville, Kathy is actively involved in her community. She serves on the Erath County Community Garden governing board as Social Media Chair and is Chair of the Stephenville Public Library Board. Her volunteer work includes planting, harvesting, and delivering produce to local food pantries, writing grants, supporting literacy initiatives, and assisting with holiday programs.

Born in Pasadena, Texas, Kathy was raised in Weimar and Clifton. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Tarleton State University and her PhD from Georgia State University. With a distinguished 40-year career in education, she has taught Kindergarten and Pre-K and has spent 28 of the past 30 years teaching at the university level. She has also tutored students and volunteered in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Smith is a mathematics professor and department head at Tarleton State University, specializing in the preparation of future mathematics educators. She has published over 20 works and delivered more than 100 professional presentations.

Kathy is married to Russell Smith and is the proud mother of two children and grandmother of three. Her son, Christopher, and his wife, Kayla, have two children, Blair and Graham. Her daughter, Natalie, is married to Jordon Jones, who serves in the United States Air Force; they are stationed in California and have one son, Gus.