

PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT 2018-2020

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SUPPORT ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Provide comfort and resources to members of the armed forces and their families in recognition of their sacrifices to protect our country.

- Support **Boatsie's Boxes**
 - Participate in statewide project of providing Christmas stockings (filled or empty with a \$20 donation)
 - Send cards and candy for Valentine's Day
 - Send jelly beans at Easter
 - Collect and send items for the hot months (April through September)
 - *The list of items needed and the dates when they are needed can be found on the wish list at www.boatsie.com or Boatsie's Boxes, Inc. (33 Forest Hills Drive, Wheeling WV, 26003) and can also be obtained from the NJSFWC Public Issues Chairman.*
- Take part in GFWC President Mary Ellen Brock's initiative to have 1,000 service projects completed by GFWC members for women in the military during the 2018-2020 administration
- Support **Military Working Dogs** – work to help raise money to purchase the K9 Storm Intruder Vest. Contact Linda Blick (Founding Board of Trustees Member Tails of Hope Foundation, Inc™; Finding One Another: Courage Beyond Measure™; Youth Ambassador K9 Career Program (YAP™)) at lindablick@tailsofhopefoundation.org or 845-926-3478 for ways to get involved and help the cause.
- Support the **National D-Day Memorial** and Education Center. Clubs can help by becoming a member, promoting awareness and educating the public about the historical facts of D-Day. Contact the National D-Day Memorial Fund, PO Box 77, Bedford, VA 24523. Call 540-587-3619 or visit www.dday.org for more information.
- Contact local **VA hospitals** to ascertain their needs. This might include donating magazines, lap robes, holiday favors, socks, store-bought baked goods, etc.
- Support our nation's armed forces by sending blank handmade greeting cards to write home on, as well as cards of gratitude to encourage them. <http://www.operationwritehome.org/>
- Recognize the dedication and patriotism of women who have served in defense of our country by inviting them to a reception or to speak at club and community forums. These special women include not only military personnel, but also nurses and "Rosie the Riveters" who worked in defense plants across the country.
- Support **Operation Gratitude** with donations of packaged food (i.e. beef jerky, tuna, trail mix, power bars, toiletries, DVDs, batteries, disposable cameras baseball caps and pre-paid phone cards). Prepare a **Send a Soldier to the Movies Shoebox** with the items listed above. Partner with a local veterans' organization to help defray the cost of shipping. For information visit www.opgratitude.com
- Contact the **United States Service Organization (USO)** at www.uso.org or phone 703-908-6400 to learn about a variety of projects to support our military such as Project Operation Phone Home, United through Reading, Operation Mail Call, and Gifts to the Homefront. Work with school children to create handmade "Thinking of You" and/or "Thank you" cards to send overseas.
- Join the Hats for Troops project by knitting or crocheting handmade hats to comfort soldiers as they serve. See the **Warmth for Warriors** website for directions. <http://warmthforwarriors.com>
- Recognize Military Mothers by giving them a plant or other remembrance on Mother's Day.
- Sew Much Comfort provides adaptive clothing to support the unique needs of our wounded service personnel, including all branches of the military and national guard at no cost to our wounded service members. Visit www.SewMuchComfort.org .

INCREASE MEMBERS' LEVELS OF PATRIOTISM; PRIDE IN HERITAGE

Utilize our GFWC and State Resolutions to increase members' levels of patriotism; pride in heritage and to become more involved in community leadership roles.

- **Vote** in local, state, and national elections; encourage others to do the same. **Volunteer to drive** elderly or handicapped voters to the polls
- Lead or participate in **voter registration** drives.
- Volunteer as a **poll worker**.
- **Sponsor** a candidates' forum for your community.
- **Invite** local elected officials to speak at your club about issues of interest to your club members.
- **Encourage** and recommend members to serve in appointed positions in local government and/or **seek**

elected office.

- **Invite** women in elected office to your club meeting to talk about their experiences.
- The Kettering Foundation, an independent, nonpartisan research organization, explores ways that key political practices can be strengthened through innovations that emphasize active roles for citizens. What does it take for citizens to shape their collective future? For more information, visit www.Kettering.org.
- Wreaths Across America, www.wreathscrossamerica.org. The second Saturday in December is Wreaths Across America Day. Coordinate laying wreaths on grave sites at Veterans cemeteries, while this is occurring at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Celebrate Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and the 4th of July. Work with community leaders to celebrate these three National Holidays. Contact your local American Legions, VFW, Veterans, schools and local organizations to assist with these celebrations.
- **Discounts for the Military.** Please visit www.militarybenefits.info/military-discounts

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Work together with local affiliates toward safer communities and overall well-being of all citizens whether at home or on the road.

- Investigate whether **Code Adam** has been adopted by stores in your community. Code Adam is a powerful search tool initiated by WalMart for lost and possibly abducted children and is currently used in tens of thousands of establishments across the nation. For more information see www.missingkids.com. Work with your local Chamber of Commerce on this project.
- Join the **National SAFE KIDS Campaign**, the first nationwide childhood injury prevention campaign. Visit www.usa.safekids.org and use the link to connect to Safe Kids New Jersey or call coordinator Carol Ann Giardelli, One Johnson and Johnson Plaza, Wh 1305, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, 732-524-3864
- Work with your police and fire department to initiate and support projects on **home, fire, bike, pedestrian safety** for children, and DARE Program support.
- Create Hug-A-Bears to distribute to local police, EMT Squads and hospital emergency rooms. Contact the Public Affairs Chairman for the pattern. New teddy bears can also be distributed. Reminder: *eyes, noses, etc. should be sewn/embroidered or drawn with colorfast markers.*
- Promote **Teen Driving Safety** by encouraging Teen Driving Awareness. Distribute information found on the websites www.njteenriving.com and www.ugptbrians.com. Distribute information to schools and parents on **Kyleigh's Law** to keep teens safe.
- Distribute information regarding **safe parties**. Contact MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) website www.madd.org or contact the New Jersey Chapter at MADD, P.O. Box 5085, Trenton NJ 08638, phone 800-448-6233 for other awareness programs. Support the Red Ribbon Campaign in December. SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) provides students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, drug use, impaired driving and other destructible decisions. Contact SADD at www.sadd.org or SADD National, 255 Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, phone: 1-877-SADD-INC.
- Invite a speaker from AARP to educate members about their **Driver Safety Program for mature drivers**. Sponsor an AARP Driver Safety Program in your community. Contact AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, Phone 202-434-2067 E-mail www.aarp.org
- Improve **fire safety** in public buildings (i.e., schools, nursing homes, hospitals) in your community by working with Fire Department officials to place supplemental exit signs 18 inches from the floor to assist in safe evacuation of buildings during smoky conditions.
- **Donate bike helmets** to Social Service Agencies for children who are unable to afford them.
- **Volunteer** with and donate to your local fire, rescue, and ambulance service.
- Celebrate **National School Bus Safety Week** during the month of October. The National Association for Public Transportation (NAPT) sponsors a school bus safety poster contest for children in elementary and middle school and a speech contest for high school students. For more information on participating in either program, visit the NAPT website at www.napt.org, or phone 800-989-NAPT.
- **Observe** the various programs recognized nationally in your community by inviting speakers and guest from your community: Crime Stoppers Month (January), National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), Fireworks Safety Month (July), Baby Safety Month (September), Child Safety and Protection Month (November), and National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (December).
- For more ideas contact the **New Jersey State Safety Council** (6 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016; Tel 908-272-7712/2930; website www.njsafety.org).
- **Cyber Security Awareness.** Please visit www.staysafeonline.org

Review the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual – Public Issues Section for additional project ideas and resources.