

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

Jan W. Hanson, President

"Let Our Voices Soar"



NJSFWC Headquarters

March 2021

Dear Members,

Enclosed you will find copies of the proposed **Resolutions** that will be presented for delegate approval at the 127th Annual Convention, April 2021.

Please be sure that the delegates representing your club read these carefully and are familiar with them. In the interest of time, NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Chairman Chris Sienkielewski will not read the proposed Resolutions in their entirety when presenting them to the Assembly. These are the **only copies your club will receive**; so please share them with your delegates. This information can also be found on the NJSFWC website, njsfwc.org.

If you would like to speak on any of the Bylaws or Resolutions, it would be helpful if you let us know ahead of time. Just email hanson@njsfwc.org that you intend to speak and on which Bylaw Amendment or Resolution. We do not need to know what you will be saying. Otherwise, you will need to send something to the chat, during the meeting.

It is important that members follow-up with letters to legislators named in the Resolutions approved at Convention. Only individual follow-up will bring action.

In Federation,

Jan W. Hanson

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NJSFWC President

Encl.



ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA LONG TERM PLANNING COMMISSION

- Whereas, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diseases is a progressive, degenerative and irreversible neurological disease with an undetermined origin, and
- Whereas, These diseases are characterized by a progressive decline in intellectual and cognitive functioning and memory loss including a deterioration in all areas of cognitive and executive functioning, including analytical ability, reasoning, language, perception, judgement and personality eventually resulting in the inability to perform physical functions of daily life, such as walking, dressing, feeding and bathing; and
- Whereas, According to a 2020 Facts and Figures Report released by the Alzheimer's Association, nearly 6 million Americans age 65 or older (one out of every 10 Americans in this age group) with 190,000 seniors in NJ and an expected increase by more than 210,000 by the year 2025; and
- Whereas, As of 2016, Alzheimer's disease was ranked as the sixth most burdensome disease in the nation in terms of total disability-adjusted life and the fourth most burdensome disease in terms of the total number of years of life that are lived with a disability with a total Medicaid payment in NJ amounting to nearly \$2.2 billion in 2020 and expected to increase more than \$2.6 billion by 2025: therefore
- RESOLVED, That the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021, strongly urges New Jersey legislators to support A4422 and S2796, establishing the 'Alzheimer's and Dementia Long Term Planning Commission' in the Department of Human Services which would provide for the ongoing evaluation of NJ's Alzheimer's disease and dementia care system and identify means and methods that can be used to address significant shortcomings and expand and prepare the system to meet the increasing and evolving needs of an aging population, and
- RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Joseph F. Vitale, Senator and Sponsor of S2796; Richard J. Codey, Senate President and Sponsor of S2796; Valerie Vainieri Huttel, Assemblywoman and Chairman of Assembly Aging and Senior Services Committee and Sponsor of A4422; Nicholas Chiaravalloti, Daniel R. Benson, Assemblymen and Sponsors of A4422; Craig J. Coughlin, Assembly Speaker; Matthew Schwartz, Chairman, Alzheimer's NJ; GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:
NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Committee
Chris Sienkielewski, Chairman

**RESORATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE
FOR YOUTHS AND COMMUNITY PILOT PROGRAM**

Whereas, New Jersey’s youth justice system has staggering racial justice disparities, high recidivism rates, and grossly underfunded community-based services; and

Whereas, In New Jersey of the 377 youths released from State juvenile facilities in 2014, 76.9 percent had a subsequent arrest or court filing, 58.9 percent had a subsequent adjudication or conviction, and almost one-fourth, 23.9 percent, were recommitted to a facility within three years of release; and

Whereas, While the State currently spends approximately \$56 million a year to operate its three secure juvenile facilities, \$300,000 for each incarcerated youth, it only allocates around \$16 million to provide counties with funding for community-based youth programs; and

Whereas, Nationally, restorative justice and transformative justice programs and practices have been recognized as best practices in keeping young people out of the youth justice system and successfully reintegrating them into their home communities after being released from out-of-home placements; therefore

RESOLVED, The New Jersey State Federation of Women’s Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021 strongly urges New Jersey legislators to support S2924 and A4663 that would create a two-year restorative and transformative justice pilot program focused on reducing initial and repeat youth involvement with the youth justice system, and making an appropriation; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Shirley Turner, Nellie Pou, Senators and Sponsors of S2924; Teresa Ruiz, Senator and Co-sponsor of S2924; Stephen M. Sweeney, Senate President; Nicholas Scutari, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee; Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Anthony Verrelli, Shanique Speight; Shavonda Sumter Assembly Members and Sponsors of A4663; Valerie Vainier Huttle, Annette Chapparro, William Spearman, Mila Jasey, Linda Carter, Benjie Wimberly, Cleopatra Tucker, Assembly Members and Co-sponsors of A4663; Craig J. Coughlin, Assembly Speaker; Adam Taliaferro, Chairman, Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee; GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:
NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Committee
Chris Sienkielewski, Chairman

SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN PRISONERS IN NEW JERSEY

Whereas, The United States Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey released an investigative report (April 2020) of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women maintaining that the State of New Jersey, through the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC), fails to keep prisoners at Edna Mahan safe from sexual abuse by staff; and

Whereas, Despite being on notice of these long-standing problems with staff sexual abuse, NJDOC failed to take timely action to remedy the systemic problems that enabled correction officers and other staff to continue the sexual abuse by discouraging women from reporting the abuse and allowing sexual abuse to occur undetected and undeterred; and

Whereas, The NJDOC and Edna Mahan Correctional Facility are violating the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution by failing to protect prisoners from serious harm and a substantial risk of serious harm; therefore

RESOLVED, That the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021, strongly urges the New Jersey Governor and Legislature to enact legislation and policies following the remedial measures endorsed by The United States Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Stephen Sweeney, Senate President; Craig J. Coughlin, Speaker, New Jersey Assembly; GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:
GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede
Eleanor Kelly, President

IMPROVEMENT OF RE-ENTRY SERVICES FOR NEW JERSEY WOMEN PRISONERS

Whereas, According to a 2020 report by the NJ Commission on Re-entry Services for Women, the radically increasing numbers of formerly incarcerated women face a variety of obstacles to achieving a successful reentry outcome, including medical care, specifically obstetrics-gynecology, behavioral health (mental, addiction), sexual violence counseling, family reunification, education, and adequate access to basic social services; and

Whereas, The Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women is the only New Jersey prison facility that presently houses more than 500 state-sentenced women facing a unique set of challenges and constraints resulting from placement in a correctional facility designed to house men and whose infrastructure is primarily centered on serving the male population; and.

Whereas, The report condemns the New Jersey Department of Corrections whose responsibility was to protect the female inmates and has failed to protect the personal safety and well-being of female inmates, provided substandard medical and behavioral healthcare to women within their charge, and has not instituted training programs that are responsive to market needs and the women's capacity for employment; therefore

RESOLVED, That the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021, strongly urges New Jersey legislators to address through legislative action the following areas of reform as outlined in the 2020 report by the NJ Commission on Re-entry Services for Women:

- Employment
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Family Reunification
- Domestic Violence; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Craig J. Coughlin, Speaker, New Jersey Assembly; Stephen M. Sweeney, President, New Jersey Senate; Jim McGreevey, Chairman of New Jersey Reentry Corporation; GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:
GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede
Eleanor Kelly, President

IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IN NEW JERSEY

Whereas; New Jersey taxpayers spend approximately \$1.5 billion into school transportation costs annually, with the majority of it going to private carriers charged with getting students to and from their schools; and

Whereas; The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission's inspectors found drivers of school buses with suspended licenses and other violations of the laws, yet through loopholes many private bus companies are able to exploit the system by restructuring their businesses under another name, a practice that has endangered children in their care and in some cases ended in death; and

Whereas; School districts are currently bound by law to award contracts to the lowest bidder, allowing companies with multiple violations and poor records to continue to receive additional contracts; therefore;

RESOLVED, That the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021, strongly urges New Jersey legislators to support A1363 requiring;

- Contracts for student transportation to include a provision that terminates the contract if a driver receives a suspension or revocation of the individual's commercial driver license or the company knowingly allows any other unauthorized individual to operate a school bus;
- The Commissioner of Education to adopt rules and regulations concerning the temporary or final debarment of a school bus contractor; and
- A written notice of that debarment to any agency, school district, board of education or nonpublic school during any subsequent bidding process; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Daniel R. Benson, Assemblyman and Chairman of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, Sponsor of A1363; Lisa Swain, P. Christopher Tully, Assembly Members and Sponsors of A1363; Craig J. Coughlin, Assembly Speaker; GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:

GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede
Eleanor Kelly, President

BIJOU'S LAW

Whereas, There are many dog grooming establishments whose staff is not licensed or trained technically and there are many dogs getting hurt or meeting an untimely death at the hands of the groomers; and

Whereas, At this time, there are no national standards for the training or examination of pet groomers, which is in stark contrast to the standard requirements for the licensure of veterinarians; and

Whereas, Bijou's Law would establish a Pet Groomer's Advisory Committee within the Division of Consumer's Affairs and require groomers to pass an exam for a license, therefore;

RESOLVED, The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC, an organization of approximately 6,400 concerned women, in Convention assembled April 2021, strongly urges New Jersey legislators to support A663 that would establish:

- Licensing and registration for those over the age of 18 who wish to be pet groomers and with a payment of \$75 for the first two years of licensing and \$50 for renewal thereafter;
- Anyone in training or under examination to practice pet grooming be under the direct supervision of a certified groomer;
- Registration by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners of all pet grooming businesses;
- Sanitary conditions of pet grooming businesses;
- Incident reports to be filed with the Board within 10 days of any incident;
- Suspension of or revoking of pet grooming business for making false statements in their application, for not showing a staff member's appropriate licensing, failing to have general liability insurance, failing to supply sanitary conditions and failing to submit an incident report;
- A public information campaign to educate New Jersey consumers and provide a toll-free telephone number for consumers making inquiries/complaints of a pet groomer/grooming business; and

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey; Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey; Thomas P. GIBLIN, Valerie Vainieri Huttle, Paul D. Moriarty, Assembly Members and Sponsors of A663; Angelica M. Jimenez, Pedro Mejia, Daniel R. Benson, Carol A. Murphy, Assembly Members and Co-Sponsors of A663; Craig J. Coughlin, Assembly Speaker and Chairman, GFWC Public Policy Chairman; and GFWC Resolutions Chairman.

Submitted by:
NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Committee
Chris Sienkielewski, Chairman