

- **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH**

**GAIL D. KOVACS-FELICI, CHAIRMAN**

There are four areas of the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program which reminds us that we are part of a larger society – locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION**

The goal in this area is to make our communities and homes safer.

*National Night Out's* purpose is to build a working relationship between neighbors and local police departments. This event, held the first Tuesday in August, includes safety demonstrations, activities for children and much more. This is a perfect project to interest community members in your club and to provide visibility within the community.

**CELEBRATE CITIZENSHIP AND PATRIOTISM**

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Think of those who immigrated and became a U.S. citizen. Could we pass the naturalization test?

A short program for a club meeting could be the twenty-question sample practice U.S. Citizenship test. The tests are available – free of charge – on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website

**ASSISTING THE IMPOVERISHED**

NJSFWC has a long history of projects that help those that are less fortunate. Some examples are the 2020 Day Of Service project – EMBRELLA and state projects such as the NJ Food Bank and CASA.

A Community project such as “I Support The Girls” or “Free The Girls” is doable even during the COVID-19 restrictions. Publish information on your community’s website and your club’s Facebook page. Establish a drop off point where one new bra and \$1 postage could be collected by residents.

**SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Many club members and their families have had members in the U.S. Armed Forces. Supporting the needs of our active and retired military is the fourth area of the Civic Engagement and Outreach program.

Nationally there are more than one million blind and visually impaired veterans. In 2006 a Braille Flag was created by a son to honor his World War II veteran father who had lost his sight. In 2008 Congress approved the Braille Flag as an official American flag. Purchasing and donating the fully tactile flag aides the visually impaired in denoting the orientation and colors of the flag’s stripes, stars and field. It also contains the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America in both raised print and Braille.