



ALMANAC



New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

President's Message—Shirley A. Holly

Happy New Year! No, you haven't lost your mind or a few months, this is September 2022, but this marks the unofficial beginning of a new club year. The Board of Directors celebrated Happy New Year at the June Board meeting complete with top hats and noise makers! Plan something special as your clubs begin another productive year!

Be sure to read Immediate Past President, Jan Hanson's article on the GFWC Convention in this issue. This Officer was disappointed to not be able to attend the convention in New Orleans due to having COVID.

Congratulations to our 2022 LEADS candidate Kathy Doty, who represented NJSFWC so well. Be sure to read Kathy's LEADS story in this ALMANAC.

Over the summer, your State Chairmen were busy updating the Supplements. Please take time to review them. Although no club can be expected to do all of the projects suggested, perhaps you'll try a new project or two.

It was wonderful to see many of our members who attended the Summer Luncheon and Basket Raffle at the Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant Beach last month. Proceeds from that fundraiser will go to our Special State Project, The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. Thank you to Marie Sullivan, SSP Chairman and her committee, those who attended, and all who donated raffle items, for making this event a such huge success!

Join us at the Battleground Country Club in Manalapan for State Fall Conference on October 24th. Chairman Vivien Finn and her committee are arranging an informative and entertaining day. Come and see what they have planned for you. Our Keynote Speaker will be Julia Orlando who will speak about

ending homelessness in Bergen County. She has a fascinating story you won't want to miss. The registration flier and more information are also in this ALMANAC. The East Windsor Hampton Inn is holding a room block for us on October 23rd. Reservations must be made by September 9th by calling 609-426-1600 mention NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs.

New this year, will be a Federation Yearbook scavenger hunt! Members will be amazed at what is actually in the yearbook. You must bring your own 2022-2023 yearbook to Fall Conference, no sharing, and you must complete the scavenger hunt on your own! Prizes will be awarded!

Thank you to all of the members who attended the "Meet the Presidents" in May and June. One of the things to come out of those meetings was that members want more workshops. We are investigating those and other ideas for workshops. Watch the ALMANAC each month for details. There will definitely be more workshops at convention.

Speaking about convention – Mark your calendar for May 1-3rd 2023 for The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. More exciting details will come soon.

In Federation Friendship,

Shirley,

**Love, Loyalty, Friendship -
The Bonds of Volunteerism**

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Special points of interest:

- State Dates
- Turning Point
- Fall Conference
- Grant Application
- Operation Yellow Ribbon
- Women of Achievement Form
- More

- Love, Loyalty,
- Friendship -
- The Bonds of
- Volunteerism



ALMANAC

Past State President—Jan W. Hanson
2022 GFWC Convention in New Orleans

Thirteen NJSFWC members, one guest and a Past International President represented New Jersey at the 2022 GFWC Convention in New Orleans. This Past State President was honored to participate in the opening day processional, along with Jill McDonald. Each State Federation was announced as their flag was displayed on the screen. The Bylaws were presented. Presentation of the Resolutions began and continued throughout the Convention.

In the afternoon session, New Jersey won the Civic Engagement and Outreach Award which was accepted by State Chairman Gail Kovacs Felici and this Past State President. The Woman's Club of Point Pleasant won Honorable Mention in Health and Wellness Community Service Program for their Creativity Project "Cuddly Comfort". The Past International Presidents each spoke about their administration, including Mary Ellen Brock.

At the Junior Awards Banquet New Jersey won the Advocates for Children award which was accepted by State Chairman Jane Mackesy and this Past State President. The Boys Charity Group, Princeton Juniores and Long Valley Juniores received certificates for their reports.

On Sunday, there were a number of workshops for attendees to choose from on the Affiliate Organizations and GFWC Programs.

At the afternoon session we were introduced to the GFWC Candidates as they gave their speeches. That evening was the Middle Atlantic Region dinner where the highlight was the installation of New Jersey Past State President, Mary Pat Marcello as MAR President. It was an honor to introduce Kathy Doty, NJ LEADS graduate and Jill McDonald, MAR Jennie June nominee. NJSFWC activities were, also, reported.

At the Monday morning business meeting, it was this Past State President's honor to bring greetings to the assembly. Seonde Nimenya, award-winning author and diversity and inclusion consultant, spoke about her experiences. At the GFWC Signature Program Luncheon and Awards Katie Ray-Jones, CEO of the National Domestic Violence Hotline spoke on the purpose of the Hotline, the statistics on Domestic Violence and what members can do to help. New Jersey and the Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills tied for 8th place in the amount donated to the GFWC Domestic Violence Scholarships.

Monday afternoon brought more awards. The Woman's Club of Belleville's youth poetry entry and the Woman's Club of Wenonah's youth short story entry won. New Jersey picked up the Legislation/Public Policy Award thanks to Chairman Chris Sienkielewski and all the club women who advocated to their elected officials. Best selling author, Karen White, spoke on the importance of female friendships in her novels.

At the "All That Jazz", Monday night dinner the Jennie Award Winners, including our own Jill McDonald, were recognized. New Jersey is proud of Jill's biography and excited to see her receive this honor. It is well deserved. Also, that evening, President Marion St. Clair and Director of Junior Clubs, Karen Higbee reported on the State of the Federation.

On Tuesday morning there was a Parliamentary Procedure Workshop before the meeting. At the final business meeting, the new Treasurer, Becky Wright election was announced. This was the only contested position. New Jersey won the award for our Website, thanks to Denise Hosier's outstanding job. Kentucky gave the invitation to the 2023 Convention, June 10-13, in Louisville, so mark your calendars. This President won the Charlotte Emerson Brown award for her report based on State and Club activities.

The Convention wrapped up with the installation of Deb Strahanoski as GFWC International President with Mary Ellen Brock conducting the Installation.

It was an honor and privilege to represent New Jersey as my final duty as 2020-2022 President. It was exciting to accept awards and congratulations to the winners, including Barbara Rose and Patricia Dahl, whose reports helped us win the Advocates for Children and Civic Engagement and Outreach awards, respectively. Also, thank you to those from New Jersey in attendance who were able to cheer our achievements.

NJSFWC PRESIDENT-ELECT**Barbara McCloskey**

The President-Elect also serves as the Leadership Chairman.

Promoting Leadership is extremely important as we look for potential leaders in our Clubs and for District and State positions.

LEADS is an acronym for GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar for members who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions beyond their club. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help members gain the capabilities, confidence and commitment necessary to pursue leadership positions within the state.

We will be offering some LEADS type programs over the course of the next two years. The first workshop will be held Saturday, November 5th at Headquarters. The flyer is included in this ALMANAC.

Anyone who may be interested in learning more about leadership roles is welcome to attend. Presidents should be looking at their members and recommending the workshop to those who they feel could benefit from this type of workshop.

A certificate of completion of the workshop will be presented to each participant.

At each September District Council meeting, an updated Presidents Manual will be available for all club Presidents. This is an excellent tool for all Presidents, and has valuable information and materials to support your club.

Some information that is included is: A sample Agenda, Minutes and How to Process a Motion. No one should say they cannot be President because they do not know how to Process a Motion!

This Manual can be used as a guide to create your own procedure manual for all board positions.

Members are much more likely to step up to positions if they have guidelines and instructions.

Please feel free to contact this Officer with any questions, and if you would benefit from a personal visit to your club.

NJSFWC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**Susan Chambers**

Welcome back from a very hot summer! Here's hoping you and your club members were able to enjoy some social time together ... and maybe even work on a project or two.

This Officer hopes you used our Project Report Form (that you can find in this ALMANAC or on the website) to track the hours and dollars involved. Each Chairman should have a copy of this form to use, preferably at the beginning of each project. Once it's completed, it's a great tool to help you complete your Year End Report Forms which will be sent to you later this Fall.

Last year's Year End Report Forms were reviewed this summer by your Officers, based on your projects from 2021, any new info from GFWC and adding in President Holly's "Project 130" in anticipation of NJSFWC's 130th Anniversary coming in 2024.

Be sure to contact this Officer with any questions, concerns or suggestions for making the report writing process easy for you. We're here to help! And let's have some fun with those Year End Reports as we see all the great work your clubs did for your communities!

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**Chris Sienkielewski**

Have you ever heard the saying, “If I had a dime for every time...I would be rich?” Well...if I had a dime for every time, I was asked how you can find new members...I would give all the money to our Headquarters building and we would never need to worry!”

We all share the same struggle of finding new members and sometimes we just don't know exactly what to do. But the truth is...we all need a plan. Here is volunteer recruitment checklist to help get started:

- Gather a recruitment team. This can be a small group of committed and excited members (new and seasoned) headed by your Membership Chairman. The Recruitment Team can begin to gather materials, such as newsletters, photos and a list of previous projects along with NJSFWC Almanacs and other materials to place in a folder for potential members to look through.
- Contact some former members who may wish to come back – you never know if personal circumstances have changed and they are just looking to be asked.
- Recruit within your “Circle of Influence”. Ask your members to create a list of potential contacts, including friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and community members at church, sporting teams, etc.
- Broaden your circle:
 - Write an article on your community's forum or your Facebook page telling about some upcoming events and inviting potential members to a meeting. Put an article or an ad in your community newspaper advertising for new members
- Always follow up with potential members by inviting them to a meeting – no strings attached.
- Utilize your recruitment team to sit with potential members at meetings in order to answer any questions and help her navigate through the meeting.
- Think about Business Cards for every member to use when they speak to potential members. Leave space on the card for the member to write in her email or phone number so people can follow up if they have any questions.

Now that you have a plan, you can work on an Orientation process for all the new members who will be asking to join. Next month there will be information on what kinds of information you can give at an Orientation and how to make it fun!

NJSFWC TREASURER**Linda Babeuf**

Club Presidents are asked to watch for a mailing from this Treasurer, the first week in September. The envelope will contain:

- The Dues Bill for the 2022-2023 club year. Your club dues are due to HQs on or before November 1, 2022. If your club submitted the blue sheet on time, the bill will reflect the number of members your club reported. If the blue sheet was not received on time, your club will be billed for and is responsible for the number of members reported in the 2021-2022 club year regardless of your current membership.
- The Charitable Registration Form for 2022, which is due October 1, 2022 and the cost is \$15.00.
- The Continuing Funds Form for 2023 which is due April 1, 2023. Along with the Continuing Funds Form is the Explanation of the Continuing Funds.
- The Girls' Career Institute Delegate Registration Form for 2023. The registration form is due January 31, 2023.

Although the information is sent to the club President, a copy should be made for her files. The President should record the deadlines and give the envelope of forms to the club Treasurer. This will enable the Treasurer to have the correct information she needs to ensure that the checks are sent to Headquarters by the deadlines.

As always, if you have any questions, please call me at 732-687-3443 or email me at babeuf@njsfwc.org.

There will be a Treasurer/Financial Secretary Workshop in November. The flyer with the information is included in this ALMANAC. Please be sure to register if you would like to attend.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY**Christina Burlew**

If your club is looking for fundraising ideas, a great source of information is presented at the District Council Meetings. These meetings are open to all members. Presidents or a representative of each club have the opportunity to share information about their programs, projects, and events. Also, the ALMANAC is another source of valuable information. All of the District Vice Presidents write a monthly article about the programs, projects, and events in their District. Share the information with your members.

Another source of valuable information is the weekly eConnection from our President. If you are not currently receiving the eConnection, please sign up on our website. The sign-up is next to the Materials information.

Have you checked out the top 10 Fundraising Projects for 2021? If not, go to njsfwc.org, click on Materials, and choose Treasurer & Fundraising Top Projects 2021. As part of the Materials information, you will find the GFWC Fundraising Newsletter which contains additional ideas. Our website contains a wealth of information, and you do not need a password.

Many restaurants offer a dining to donate program for organization and will give back between 10 & 20% of sales. If you take advantage of this opportunity, be sure to ask about take-out orders. A great source of information can be found on this website: <https://www.groupraise.com/restaurants-fundraisers>. All you need to do is put in your town and look for the restaurants that participate.

NJSFWC is working with Lesa Brinker, Independent Consultant, with the Body Shop at Home. Lesa is giving us 20% on all sales. This will be an ongoing fundraiser to benefit Headquarters.

If you would like to send a care package to your favorite college student, Lesa will create a personalized bundle of 10 items for \$62.60. Items will be delivered to their dorm for free. Please refer to the flyer in this ALMANAC to explore their make-up, skincare, and hair care products. Lesa's contact information is on the flyer.

This Officer wishes all of you a very successful year.

COLLEGE DISTRICT**Linda Carbley**

The Club Presidents and members of the College District attended the June District Council in person and found the presentations of Leadership given by NJSFWC President-Elect Barbara McCloskey and Membership given by NJSFWC Second Vice President Chris Sienkielewski very inspiring.

The College District Members have been very busy and are gearing up for an active Fall!!!

Holland Township, Hillsborough, Flemington, and Metuchen Edison Woman's Clubs all supported Education by giving local Scholarships in their communities.

The **Friday Club of Hightstown** celebrated their 125 Years with a High Tea. They had the local officials attend to extend congratulations.

The **Woman's Club of Clinton** will be celebrating their 100th Year Anniversary on September 12th. **Branchburg Woman's Club** will participate in the 25th Annual Branchburg Country Fair on September 24th promoting membership. **East Brunswick Woman's Club** will host a Charity Cover Dish Luncheon on September 20th at 12:30 a.m. at the EB VFW with a speaker from the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. The **Woman's Club of Cranbury** members will participate in September "Walk to End Alzheimers". **North Brunswick Women's Club** will be participating in North Brunswick's 40th Heritage Day on October 1st to recruit new members with games and prizes. **Bridgewater Woman's Club** will be partnering with Robert Wood Johnson in Somerset on October 5th at 10:30 discussing Women's Health.

Franklin Woman's Club provided the New Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Hotline which will be **988** effective July 16th for New Jersey.

GARDEN DISTRICT**Marie DiMatties**

Many Clubs in the Garden District kicked off their club year with the installation of Officers and Board Members. This District Vice President had the honor and privilege of performing installations for seven clubs in her district.

Here are some exciting activities happening in the Garden District:

The **Haddon Fortnightly** put together 250 Vial of Life packets to distribute free at the community Wellness Day, October 1st along with First Responders.

The **Haddon Fortnightly EMD** entered an amusing float "Celebrating the Jersey Shore" for the annual Fourth of July Parade. They won third prize; celebrating with a barbecue at a member's home.

Marlton Woman's Club supported the American Cancer Society at the Relay for Life in June with Team Sweet Charity. They also sold raffle tickets and luminaria bags.

Woman's Club of Pitman participated in Pop-up Parks sponsored by the Borough Chamber of Commerce gathering together to entertain with activities, food and most importantly to promote their club to perspective members.

Woman's Club of Pennsville plan on participating in their annual Septemberfest with a float in the parade and bake sale to promote their club.

Waterford Township Woman's Club is planning a Fall Designer Bingo on Sunday October 23.
GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede is having an Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market on October 22nd for attic finds and other "stuff".

Woman's Club of Wenonah is launching their new year with a KICK OFF to 100 Years with over 100 members! They had a float to honor their 100 years as well as some other surprises!

GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford's members are making "Magic Pillowcases" to donate to the Special State Project, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. Pillowcases are made of colorful, creative designs and patterns for children to have while they are in the hospital and to keep when they go home.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT**Lynn Webb**

The Highlands District celebrated two anniversaries. One was for **GFWC Woman's Club of Denville-Rockaway Area** who celebrated 90 years of community service and 75 years membership in the NJSFWC, and **Vernon Township Woman's Club** celebrated their 50th anniversary. Congratulations for all your accomplishments in your communities and for the future.

Many clubs collected backpacks for Special State Project, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation and are collecting Christmas stockings for Operation Yellow Ribbon.

Woman's Club of Belvidere did a Membership Drive at National Night Out. They attracted potential members with a drawing for floral baskets.

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Boonton** held a summer social for members and two perspectives attended and collected back to school supplies for their local school.

Woman's Club Parsippany-Troy Hills is supporting Advocates for Children by collecting tabs from cans for the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, NJ and collecting the front of cards for St Jude Ranch in Nevada. The St Jude Ranch does not accept Hallmark, American Greeting, or Disney cards. The club makes the no-sew and crochet blankets for Project Linus.

The **Roxbury Woman's Club** is planning to walk in the Alzheimer's Annual Walk, Sunday, October 23, 2022. If interested in joining with them, please call Phyllis 973-927-5343. The club is providing free Vial of Life kits to parents of special needs children and their community. These kits can be picked up at the nurse's office at Roxbury High School.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

The **Sussex Woman's Club** held a successful Music Festival with performances by The Harrisons & Susie Q., food trucks, and flower arranging.

The **Woman's Club of Vernon Township** held a tea membership drive.

The **Washington Woman's Club, Inc.** is holding a Tricky Tray on Sunday, October 25, 2022, at Flynn's on the Hill, 341 Pursel St., Phillipsburg, NJ, and Admission: \$55.00 includes buffet and dessert. There are \$50 and \$90 bundles available for purchase until September 15, 2022. For information and reservations: Call Diana Weidner at (908) 689-1783.

LIBERTY DISTRICT**Joan Murdock**

The Liberty District Clubs have been busy this summer supporting the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation with their Backpack project and contributing monetary gifts and supplies to the people of Ukraine.

The **EMD of Arlington Woman's Club** supported three families forced out of their homes due to a fire and are raising funds for an ABA play yard at a local school.

The **West Essex Woman's Club** donated children's books to their local library. They clip manufacture's coupons for Military Families redeemable at PX's on Military bases.

The **Women's Club of Montclair** works with Gateway to Aging in Place who helps bridge the gap between existing services and real needs of the older residents.

A speaker from Emmanuel Cancer Foundation will be at the **Liberty District Past President's Club** Oct 2nd meeting. Past Presidents are welcome to join the Club.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** participated in the Upper Montclair Sidewalk Sale and the **Woman's Club of Verona** is preparing their Luminaries for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night Walk" in October.

Women's Club of Caldwell are compiling their club's history for the Caldwell Historical society and supporting the construction of a visitor's center for the Grover Cleveland Historic site.

Woman's Club of Bloomfield donated school items for the children of "Safe House". They continue to donate and help distribute food items for the Church of the Green, a food pantry.

Woman's Club of Allwood and the **Eighth District Contemporaries** are collecting socks for the Paramus Veteran's Home. A clothing drive and Paint n Sip is being planned by the Woman's Club of Belleville.

The **Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** held a "Meet and Greet" Ice Cream Social and the **Woman's Club of Maplewood** held a summer luncheon. The Woman's Club of Little Falls held a Membership tea to launch the new club year.

PALISADES DISTRICT**Claire Hill**

The Clubs of the Palisades District are starting off the fall running!

Woman's Club of Leonia and other clubs will be inviting their Girls' Career Institute Delegate to tell of their adventures at Douglass College. They will be having their fall hot dog lunch at the September meeting.

Members of **Lyndhurst Woman's Club** are learning how to make their own mozzarella on October 14th at the community center. If interested, contact Rosemary Guterl at 201-939-8370. Bring your own bowl and wooden spoon. Cost \$40; bring home your mootz! Refreshments will be served.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park is planning a Food Drive for St. Francis Food Pantry, September 30th - "Meet Me in Paris" Tricky Tray & October 15th-16th a Fall Bake Sale.

Junior Woman's Club of Harrington Park are participating in the Farmer's Market to help gain new members. Town Day is being held September 10th. They continue to collect recipes for their 50th Anniversary Cookbook. They will be hosting a wine and chocolate tasting for members.

Book and Needle Club will have a speaker from Emanuel Cancer Foundation at their first meeting luncheon.

Cresskill Woman's Club is planning a blood drive on Sept. 15 at the Cresskill American Legion.

Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club is working on school supply collections.

Junior Woman's Club of Rutherford will be participating in Rutherford Day at Memorial Field. They will host a 50/50, sell snacks and have kids' activities.

Woman's Club of Haworth will have a Bake Table at "Haworth Day. Opening day luncheon will be held in September at Giulio's Restaurant.

Woman's Club of Paramus spent their summer assembling backpacks for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. They participated in their town's National Night-out, and kept members motivated with 4 summer activities. They held a Summer BBQ at one of the member's house and a Saturday morning Tea & Crafts at another member's house.

Woman's Club of Englewood has invited three state Board members to speak in September about membership & leadership. They will have the County Surrogate, Michael Dressler and Liz Corsini speak on wills, and having a power of attorney.

RAMAPO DISTRICT**Tin Ree**

Allendale Woman's Club participated in a town garage sale, and paint the town teal for ovarian cancer.

Franklin Lakes Woman's Club adopted a new way to have their meetings and a reorganization.

Woman's Club of Montville Township hosted the June District Council, and is participating in the Special State project campaign.

Pines Lake Woman's Club have an earlier meeting time and a new meeting place, and will hold a potluck dinner. They sent numerous donations to Ukraine.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club collected 700 bras for Support the Girls, are participating in the town-wide garage sale, with proceeds going to childhood trafficking.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains is having a Welcome Back Brunch, garage sale, a fundraiser with psychic Debra Derosa, and a tricky tray in October.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey is having a booth at Ramsey Day, a back to school giving tree and partnering with a Girl Scout for Grandparent's Day, delivering items to assisted living.

Woman's Club of Ramsey held their annual plant sale, joined their local farmers market for the strawberry and peach festival, and held a baby shower luncheon for Several Sources Shelter.

Woman's Club of Ridgewood has been taking collections for Ukraine, and will be hosting comedy, game and Charcuterie nights.

Riverdale Woman's Club made Cards for a Cause for the families of Uvalde, and dine to paint and sip.

RAMAPO DISTRICT (continued)

Saddle Brook Woman's Club is giving out deserts at the town picnic, doing backpacks for state project and Christmas stockings.

Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River participated in Baby Basics program at Children's Aid and Family Services, the Lighthouse pregnancy Resource center and held their annual town garage sale.

Woman's Club of West Milford joined their farmers market and gave out homemade shopping bags, sold crafts, did the special state project summer campaign, and is participating in the local health fair.

SHORE DISTRICT**Kathy Doty**

The Shore District Clubs certainly have lots of fall plans.

Belmar Woman's Club is having a table at the Belmar San Gennaro Festival on September 17th and 18th.

Woman's Club of Brick Girls' Career Institute recipients will be attending the club meeting to tell of their experience. They are making plans to celebrate Senior Citizen Day in September. They are also knitting Hats for Hate, an anti-bullying initiative. They are planning a paint party social event to attract new members.

Woman's Club of Brielle is holding their annual craft fair in conjunction with the town's Brielle Day celebration. This is their 50th year hosting the craft fair. This is a juried show, they do not have any resellers and the crafts offered need to meet a certain standard.

Woman's Club of Colts Neck is excited for their first meeting, September 8th after the summer hiatus.

Woman's Club of Lacey is working diligently on organizing fundraisers in Arts and Culture Events for the year.

Little Silver Woman's Club members are soliciting communities for used sneakers to keep the landfills free of sneakers. The September meeting will be finalizing plans for a fundraiser in October.

Woman's Club of Matawan will hold an Open House Make & Take craft project and invite interested ladies to join the club. They will be holding a Games Luncheon fundraiser. They are donating backpacks for teenagers for the local shelter and will be hosting the September Council meeting at their clubhouse.

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** will be holding their annual Fall Flea Market in September. They will have participants for GCI speak at the September meeting. They are collecting new and gently used children's books for the Children's Specialized Hospital.

Woman's Club of Spring Lake will have two fun events in September. Their Ways & Means Committee has planned a Royal High Tea and the resumption of the very popular Irish Dancing lessons taught by one of their members.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**Laura Badger**

The Clubs had activities during the summer months and are starting September with many activities!

The **Woman's Club of Absecon** had the delayed installation of officers at the June reorganization meeting. They had a membership drive at the National Night Out. Meetings for the upcoming year will be at the Absecon Presbyterian Church after years of meeting in member's homes.

After 2 years off due to Covid, members of the **Women's Community Club of Cape May** had their annual potluck picnic at Cape May Point in June. The day was threatening, but that didn't stop the members from attending and sharing all the delicious food and friendship.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT (continued)

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** had a very successful Fashion Show, Luncheon and basket auction in June after 2 years of Covid restrictions.

The **Country Shore Woman's Club** have started rehearsals for Sound of Music, their annual play, show time is in October.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** is renovating their Clubhouse. They participated in Hammonton's Cancer Foundation Walk. At the The Red, White and Blueberry Festival they sold hand painted tiles, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast and Carnival they sold raffle tickets. September is a Welcome Back Dinner with the GCI delegate and family as guests.

The **Millville Woman's Club** will have their Buona Vita Meatball Sale, which is a very successful fundraiser for them. They will have a Meet and Greet celebrating five new members. They plan to fill 30 backpacks for the Special State Project Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** is collecting school supplies for the local Boys and Girls Club. They will start the season with a Covered Dish Luncheon. They will have their annual Fall Flower and Book sale.

The **Ex-President's Club** had their semi-annual luncheon meeting in August at the Tuckahoe Inn.

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Barbara Rose

As NJSFWC will be 130 years old in 2024, President Holly has suggested that clubs celebrate by incorporating that number into their projects, such as 130 cards donated, or a total of 130 items or even 130 hours spent on a project. Here's an organization that could benefit from a 130 project from your club:

State Special State Project Chairman Marie Sullivan also serves as her club's Arts and Culture Chairman. As such, she has found an interesting charity that serves deployed U.S. military troops. The name of this organization is Operation Gratitude at <https://www.operationgratitude.com>. The organization has an excellent reputation for fulfilling its purpose, which is to make U.S. service people feel appreciated by supplying them with practical items they need. Visitors to the site can find info on sending care packages to the soldiers, their families or veterans.

Many crafters enjoy creating gifts for others, and Operation Gratitude can use lifesaving (but easy to make) paracord survival bracelets, knitted and crocheted items, greeting cards, fleece projects, drawstring bags and bandanas, hacky sacks etc. There are online tutorials and patterns. For example, instructions for making cards for the soldiers to send are clear, easy and do not require expensive equipment. The cards need to be flat, without glitter or metallic pens that can come off on uniforms, and envelopes need to be provided, with the card placed on the outside of the envelope so volunteers can check for type of card. The insides of the cards are blank, for the soldier to write a personal message, but the maker may add her name and email address on the back of the card if desired. Christmas cards are needed by October 30th. Otherwise, cards can be sent at any time in any number, even just 1. Enjoy creating!

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Marta Cirilli-Kuebler

Education is part of the foundation of ALL progress and growth, both as an individual and as a society. President Holly has challenged each Community Service Program to promote projects that reach 130 in number over the next two years to celebrate NJSFWC's upcoming 130th Anniversary. This Officer wishes to engage and assist each club to reach 130 children each year for the next two years. Here are some ideas:

Work with your libraries to register 130 new library cards. Complete a total of 130 STEAM projects or give away 130 books. This number may seem high but if you do one project a month that engages 11 children then you will have reached this goal each year.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

Some upcoming days that could result in new project possibilities are: National Wildlife Day, September 4th; National Read Book Day, September 6th; International Literacy Day, September 8th; National Coloring Day, September 14th; First Day of Fall, September 22nd; Indigenous Peoples Day, October 10th; Earth Science Week, October 11-17th; Bilingual Child Month is celebrated the month of October; National STEM & STEAM DAY, November 8th; National Young Readers Day, November 8th; and National Parental Involvement Day, November 18th. Each of these days can be a fun way to engage our youth and community in a project or activity.

Don't forget your Spelling Bee!!! District Spelling Bees will be held in March, but we encourage clubs to hold their Spelling Bees early in the school year. Holding them in fall and early winter will alleviate issues such as delays due to weather or illnesses. We hope to have Spelling Bee District Chairs attend for each District. Check our website for updates or contact me or Spelling Bee State Chairman, Brandi Lee Miller at miller@njsfwc.org if you have any questions.

In the coming months we will be encouraging clubs to promote "The Margaret Yardley Fellowship Fund." The fellowship grants are given to deserving women who are New Jersey residents pursuing post-graduate advanced studies at the school of their choice.

More information can be found on our website njsfwc.org, but do not hesitate to call or email this Officer if you have any questions, or suggestions, kuebler@njsfwc.org

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Jacqueline Wisner

"Bizarre, isn't it, that the most intellectual creature that ever lived on the planet is destroying its only home?"...
Jane Goodall

Fortunately, as enlightened people, we have proven we are ready and able to positively work toward saving our planet. This Chairman came across these statistics recently and was stunned. Did you know that over 600 million people globally **do not even own** a pair of shoes? And of those who do, about 70% wear repurposed footwear. It's hard to imagine.

In stark contrast, we, as Americans, tend to change our sneakers every 125 to 200 days, and merely throw them away. They end up in landfills and remain there for 30 -40 years since the material they are made of is not biodegradable. You may think that incinerating them is an answer, but sadly that action would release toxic chemicals in our air and soil. Further, the process of manufacturing sneakers releases large amounts of Co2 which further effects climate change and global warming. So, what can we do?

RECYCLE SNEAKERS!!! and reduce the amount of damage their production causes to the environment. So why sneakers? No doubt many of you are involved in recycling in one fashion or another. But this is a reminder of a much needed and easy to implement activity that can also **add funds** to your club bank account. It saved one club that was down to 4 members and about to close. And through this and other fundraising activities they were able to revive and are now up to 12 members!

Project Ideas:

1. The good news is that there are companies such as GotSneakers.com and sneakers4funds.com that will not only accept your sneaker donations but will pay you for them as well. It could be as much as \$7.00 or more per pair. They make it super easy to manage by providing the boxes to collect the donations, prepaid bags to mail the donations back to them and will even arrange to pick them up in some cases.
2. Partner with a school, church or any local organization to increase your visibility and information about your club activities in the community
3. Connect with a sneaker retailer on the project or a race/marathon organizer, allowing them to show their support toward saving the environment. They can provide product that won't be sold like samples, returns, factory defects or gently used donations.

Let this Officer know if you give it a try. Remember, it could satisfy the President's goal of the "130 challenge" to be completed by the end of her term.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Ellen Lund

Summer is just about over and the days are getting shorter. That means less daylight time. Why am I telling you this.....Because the sun gives our bodies Vitamin D. Why is that important? Because Vitamin D has been known to help the body absorb and retain calcium and phosphorus; both of which are critical for building bone. Vitamin D deficiency can lead to a loss of bone density, which can contribute to osteoporosis and fractures. Also, laboratory studies show that Vitamin D can reduce cancer cell growth, help control infection and reduce inflammation. Plus, adequate levels of Vitamin D could reduce the severity of COVID 19. According to the National Library of Medicine Vitamin D supplementation may have an important role in decreasing the impact of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, over 75% of Americans are Vitamin D deficient. Are you one of them?

Here is what you can do. Spend 10-20 minutes daily in the sun (without sunscreen). Consume fatty fish and seafood. Eat mushrooms and egg yolks or take a Vitamin D3 supplement. It is recommended for people ages 1 to 70 to have 600 IU's daily. For those over 70, 800 IU's daily. This Chairman encourages everyone to be a part of that 25% who has a good level of Vitamin D.

Here are a few awareness issues for the month of September: National Aging Awareness Day (9/18); World Heart Day (9/29); Alzheimer's Awareness Month; Cholesterol Education Month; Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month; Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

How are you doing with the Health and Wellness 130 lb. weight loss or 130 hours exercise challenge? Each month this Chairman will end with something she has learned about weight loss and/or exercise.

Hint 1. Only eat when you are hungry but not starving. It is not necessary to eat 3 meals a day.

Hint 2. Only engage in exercise that you enjoy doing. Sounds simple but if you do not like what you are doing more than likely you will not continue to do it. Have fun

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Nancy Levy

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month, and St. Jude Children's Hospital is sponsoring Walk/Runs across the country. St. Jude is a GFWC partner organization whose mission is to advance cures and prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases. To participate in a Walk/Run, go to www.stjude.org, or google St. Jude Walk/Run. Browse for an event by state, scroll to New Jersey, and click on Jersey Shore or Northern New Jersey. The Jersey Shore event is September 25th on the Seaside Heights Boardwalk, and the Northern New Jersey event is September 24th at Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford. You can register to walk, or if the locations are not convenient, join the Virtual Walk event. You can also get in touch with the contact person listed to see if your Club can help in other ways.

There are many other projects your Club can do that benefit children. **Before working on any of the projects listed, make sure to find an organization that can use what you plan to donate.** Organizations might include your town's Social Services department, community outreach centers, food pantries, foster care organizations, or any organization that works with children. And consider partnering with groups such as PTA's, scouts or students to help with projects, or go to the public for collections.

Here are some ideas to consider:

- Birthday Bags: Fill gift bags with a cake mix, can of frosting, birthday candles, party plates and napkins to make a child's birthday special.
 - Snacks for Children: Put together individual bags with snacks like cheese and cracker packs, raisins, or candy that food pantries or organizations can hand out.
 - Stuffed Animals for Police/Fire Departments/First Responders: Donate new small stuffed animals to these organizations to be given to children in traumatic situations.
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BYLAWS

Jean Revis

The Bylaws of a nonprofit are the legally binding rules by which the organization is governed. They set forth the structure of the organization and guide the Board of Directors (the “Board”) in the conduct of its business. In essence, Bylaws are the operating manual for a nonprofit organization. Like an operating manual, all too often they are only referred to when something goes wrong. Board members have a duty to understand the Bylaws of the organization and ensure that the provisions are followed.

While all Bylaws may be similar in substance and structure, when carefully drafted, the Bylaws should be unique to each organization and tailored its specific needs. To remain relevant, Bylaws should be reviewed by the Board every year or two and amended whenever there are significant changes in the mission and/or operation of the nonprofit organization. The Bylaws should accurately reflect how the organization operates, and if they do not, should be amended.

NJSFWC’s Bylaws have very specific procedures that help to govern our organization. To remain relevant, our Bylaws are reviewed by the Board each year in order to accurately reflect how NJSFWC operates. When changes need to be made they are amended by the delegates at the annual Convention. Some of the areas that are reviewed are:

- Our Mission: Do our Bylaws reflect the current mission of NJSFWC?
- Officer Duties: Are the descriptions of the Officers and Board members duties accurate and current?
- Committees: Do our Bylaws define committee responsibilities accurately?

One very important responsibility of all NJSFWC clubs is to review the NJSFWC Bylaws.

The current Bylaws can be found in the 2022-2023 NJSFWC Yearbook. We each have a responsibility to ensure that our bylaws are positive and helpful to our progress. Every club may submit proposed amendments to the NJSFWC Bylaws Committee by October 15th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Chambers

In celebration of NJSFWC’s upcoming 130th anniversary, President Holly has presented all clubs with the “130 Challenge,” to collect, create, or initiate 130 of something to show your Federation spirit. How does this apply to communications? There are many ways – and we challenge you to be creative!

This Chairman encourages you to use the number 130 as a benchmark for success for your club’s communications efforts. You could:

- Create 130 Facebook posts this year about your Club’s activities
- Share 130 photos from your events across social media or your website
- Send 130 Tweets from your Twitter account
- Post 130 fliers in your town about your membership or events
- Hand out 130 business cards to prospective members

The possibilities are endless. Be sure to keep track of your “130” for your Year End Report.

And on the press side, we as a state hope that 130 press releases will go out from our clubs this year. If you are sending a release, please share it with this Chairman at chambers2@njsfwc.org so we can track it and amplify your message.

FALL CONFERENCE/PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Vivien Finn

State Fall Conference will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022 at the Battleground Country Club in Manalapan. The cost of the Luncheon is \$50 and includes salad, a choice of four entrees, dessert and coffee or tea. Entrees include Filet Mignon, Norwegian Salmon, Chicken Francoise and a Vegetarian Meal. No need to decide your meal at Registration. Your entrée will be chosen by you that day!

FALL CONFERENCE/PROGRAM ASSISTANCE (continued)

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, tea, and juice available. Vendors will open from 8:30-10:00 a.m. and again following the morning Business Session which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Walgreens Pharmacy will be offering flu shots to anyone interested. If you are over 65, please bring your Medicare Card and supplemental Insurance information. If you are under 65, please bring your insurance card. Walgreens will handle all the necessary paperwork.

The Morning Session will include a speaker from our Special State Project, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, as well as reports from our Community Service Program Chairmen. The Community Service Program Chairmen will also have displays of their projects with handouts for members to take back to their Clubs from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and again following the morning Business Session.

The afternoon Keynote Speaker will be Julia Orlando who will speak about her work in Bergen County which culminated to be the first community in the nation to end homelessness. Following the keynote address, Membership awards will be given along with awards from the GFWC Convention.

A block of rooms has been reserved for Sunday, October 23rd at the Hampton Inn in East Windsor located 15 minutes from the Battleground Country Club and minutes off Exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike. The group rate is \$149 plus tax and includes a buffet breakfast. When making a reservation, please refer to the NJSFWC State Fall Conference to receive the special rate. Deadline for reservations is September 9th. The phone number is 609-426-1600.

To add to the fun of being together at the hotel, we will be holding a Paint & Sip Party at 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00 and you leave with a painted wine glass. Following the Paint & Sip, we will proceed to a local restaurant for dinner.

President Shirley Holly and this Chairman look forward to seeing you at this year's State Fall Conference. Please encourage your members, especially those who have never attended a State Fall Conference to join us!

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Dawn Pogosaew

At the time of writing this article, the Domestic Violence Statistics for 2020 and 2021 are still not available; however, almost all of the DV advocacy organizations are seeing an increase of DV occurrences - some with an increase as high as 50% above previous years.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention starts with you. Your club can raise awareness about domestic violence and make an impact at prevention for each other and your communities this October in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Create a flyer listing potential signs to be aware of such as the physical, mental, and emotional abuse that may help someone realize that they could be in an abusive relationship. Common signs of an abuser may be jealousy, verbal or physical abuse, unpredictable and controlling behavior. Signs a person is being abused might be, unexplained bruises or injuries, changes in personality, becoming withdrawn socially, nervousness or depression. Make sure to include the National Domestic Violence Hotline, (800)799-7233 and any local organizations that are available in your area. You can post your flyer on your Facebook page, in your Library, local retail establishments, etc.

You can also contact your local Domestic Violence organization for a speaker for your October program. Make sure to find out what items might be needed that could easily be collected and given to them when they come to speak.

For November, the Global 16 Days Campaign advocates for different Women's Rights issues. This year they are continuing their 2021 theme, "End Femicide". On Monday, November 21st, as part of their curriculum, we will be partnering with Douglass College to hold a panel discussion on violence against women awareness and prevention, for students and NJSFWC members. More details on this day to follow.

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE

Mary Kay Tokar

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, Girls' Career Institute was back in 2022 and it was an outstanding success. One hundred and forty-four excited, if somewhat nervous, young ladies converged on the Douglass campus of Rutgers University on June 6th where they were met by an enthusiastic staff of volunteer clubwomen, to experience a four-day mini-college and career exploration. They quickly settled into the dorms, setup their rooms, and met their roommate and other dorm mates. And thus began a whirlwind four days.

A new online registration process was put in place this year. While there were a few hiccups and a learning curve for this Director and her Assistant, the new process proved very successful. The process is being reviewed and adjustments made as recommended. A workshop will be offered in the fall for club GCI coordinators to review the process. Only online registration will be offered going forward. Guidance Counselors may also be invited to the workshop. Watch the ALMANAC or the eConnection for date and time.

Each delegate had the opportunity to attend four different career workshops given by a woman who had reached a profession level in her field. Workshops topics varied from lawyers to an accountant, to social workers, and a psychologist. There was also a marketing expert, TV Journalist, Google Salesperson, the FBI, police officer, environmental education, and more.

Additionally, the girls heard from speakers about the Federation, "Becoming their Best Self," "Writing the College Entrance Essay," and the "Scarlett Promise." It wasn't all work, there was Zumba and swimming, as well as opportunities for service projects and time to create their own personalized vision board. Many participated in the Art Show, Talent Show, Fashion Show, and the GCI Chorus.

Spirit Night found each of the seven groups working together to present a skit on a topic they pulled out of a hat on Monday. Everyone in the group had to participate in some way. This Director was glad she was not a judge.

This Director, and her staff, is already busy working with President Holly, to present an even more spectacular 75th GCI in 2023. All clubs will be asked to participate in the Diamond Jubilee of GCI. This could be by sponsoring one or more delegates from your town, donating towards full or partial scholarships for girls from underserved areas, or donating money or materials to for the program. Club members are also asked to volunteer as staff for GCI, as full-time housemothers, or as part-time helpers. Stay Tuned to the ALMANAC and the eConnection for more information.

HISTORIAN

Jean Battaglia

Does your club include a historical moment on its meeting agenda? If not, consider trying it. History need not be dry or boring! Start with a theme. This Chairman will share highlights from the lives of General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) Presidents each month, truly remarkable and accomplished women. Your historian might start there, or pick just one, and then add something about what was going on in your own club or community during the same time span and might even add an interesting fact about something invented at the time and how it affected activities of clubs and clubwomen.

1890 – 1894 – Charlotte Emerson Brown – The first GFWC President was from New Jersey! Another New Jersey woman did not hold this position until 2018 when Mary Ellen Brock was installed as the GFWC International President.

1894-1898 – Ellen Martin Henrotin – Born in Maine, educated in London, Paris, and Dresden, she returned to live in Illinois where she served as Vice-President of what is now known as the World's Fair, expanding women's exhibits to 4,000 from the previous 36. She traveled to all clubs, 51 cities in 24 states, at a time when common modes of transportation were still horse, mule, bicycle, or rail.

1898-1902 – Rebecca Douglas Lowe from Georgia defeated a nomination from the floor to be elected President. She believed club life should be not only social but should advance the education and general welfare of women. She promoted kindergarten. New Jersey clubs were to become known for their advocacy for kindergarten, leading to a state bill establishing a kindergarten program, but to be funded by local monies. During her term a resolution was passed that a notice be sent to local newspapers for Christmas shopping to be done by December 1, not to avoid the rush, but to reduce strain on store employees.

HISTORIAN (continued)

During these terms there was a public showing of movies for the first time in Paris, air conditioning was invented, tea bags were sold by a New York merchant and autos were appearing but were expensive. All would affect club women and club activities, offering comfort and convenience.

For discussion - Do your members take presentations of slides or movies for granted, with virtual meetings and ZOOM now mainstream? Do members remember attending school, church or club meetings in facilities not air conditioned? No longer needing to steep tea leaves when offering hospitality, do some now consider it a way to have that special cup of tea?

HONORS

Jill McDonald

The **WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** nomination form is included in this issue of the ALMANAC. All NJSFWC awards are an opportunity for clubs to acknowledge and reflect upon the extraordinary accomplishments of New Jersey Women and the impact these women have made in your club or community. The nominees have gone the extra mile to establish essential programs or made major contributions to the well-being of others in New Jersey. They may have been leaders in education, the scientific community, politics, non-profit agencies, and the corporate world or in the home just to suggest a few areas to consider.

Nominations for Women of Achievement are due on November 15, 2022. The nomination form outlines the requirements and gives directions for submission. Additional information about the award and the names of previous awardees can be found under Awards on the njsfwc.org website. Canvas your club members for suggestions and input immediately.

NJSFWC will collaborate with Douglass Residential College of Rutgers, The State University to find and acknowledge the 2023 Women of Achievement at the Monday, May 1st Opening Banquet at the NJSFWC Convention.

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

Marie Sullivan

The NJSFWC is proud to announce the new Special State Project for the next two years is Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. ECF (for short) has been a beacon of light for New Jersey Families facing Pediatric Cancer since 1983. They provide comfort and relief through free in-home counseling, food donations, material assistance, and emergency funds to help urgent expenses. NJSFWC wants to help ECF ease the burdens on these families.

The Special State Project hit the ground running this summer with a very successful collection of Backpacks filled with school supplies. NJSFWC members are always so generous and you once again came through to shine your generosity on families in need. Thank You!

Some of the other ways your clubs might help is by organizing a food drive. The Four ECF Food Pantries throughout the state help families so they don't have to worry about food shopping while taking their children for Cancer treatments. In fact, we will be collecting canned goods, rice, pasta, sauce in plastic jars or cans, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo & conditioner, laundry detergent, diapers, wipes etc. at our September Councils and our NJSFWC Fall Council on October 24 at the Battlegrounds Country Club. Anything you would put on your shopping list, would be acceptable and greatly appreciated!

We want to help Emmanuel Cancer Foundation get the word out about their services. Our clubs can help! Please make copies of the ECF referral form, found in this Almanac and mail it to all of your local school nurses. Parents often don't know where to turn when they get a scary CANCER diagnosis about their CHILD! Emmanuel Cancer Foundation supports families for as long as they need help, whether it's one month or ten years. Let's help them!

WEBMASTER

Tammy Levinson

The NJSFWC.ORG website has so much information and can be overwhelming, and almost daunting to navigate – try being the webmaster! Just kidding. But seriously, if there is a piece of information you are looking for, check the website. Our goal is to have it on the website for your 24/7 access. The website is your paperless tool and guide to all the NJSFWC nooks and crannies!

When you are navigating the site, please note you have a search capability using the magnifying glass in the top right corner of the page. Start here if you cannot find what you are looking for at first glance. The tabs are self-explanatory, with “+” to expand and drop down with more information! This month, I want to draw your attention to the “Materials” section/tab.

The Materials section covers every area of interest in NJSFWC. Use this tab to find general and basic info, as well as forms, support, and other information including top projects reported in the last reporting year! If you cannot find what you are looking for, please send an email to webmaster@njsfwc.org, and together we will navigate and try to answer your needs!

Please also remember to email your Facebook Post requests. Requests are posted in the order it is received, posting one piece of new information early each morning! Everyone loves to see club work around the state, so share your project ideas and pictures and other information! Other clubs can support your event, or if you are far away, clubs can contact you to duplicate the events without recreating the wheel! We will support each other – one project at a time!

DAY OF SERVICE

Mary Lou Bak

The NJSFWC Day of Service will take place on January 16, 2023, which is the National Day of Service. We will be working on a project for the Community Foodbank of New Jersey. According to their website, “In New Jersey, about 800,000 people struggle with hunger, including approximately 200,000 children.”

Recognizing that food insecurity is a reality that so many New Jersey families and individuals face, the Day of Service project will revolve around sorting and bagging food contributions from clubs. Each District will host the event simultaneously at locations to be announced. The contributions will follow one or two food kit ideas that Community Foodbank designed to cover a variety of needs, such as Dinner-In-A-Bag and Healthy-Lifestyle-Meal. They will also assist with the logistics of distributing the bags to their partners in local communities.

Examples of the food kits can be viewed at this link:
<https://cfbnj.org/register-your-food-drive/food-product-drive-ideas/>

GRANT WRITING

Pamela McNamee

A grant writer does much research to make sure the applications that are submitted are complete and meet the goals of the grant. The first step of a grant writer is to research the needed funding that NJSFWC needs to acquire for various projects and upkeep of headquarters. For example, we continually need funds to ensure that our GCI students have an excellent experience at Douglas College every year. Currently, headquarters is in need of new windows which will be a large expense.

Any awards the organization receives is put to good use. Funds must be used for the purpose the application states and within a designation time frame.

Awards can come from a variety of sources. Please refer any information you may encounter towards this endeavor. All information received by this Chairman will be thoroughly researched and is greatly appreciated.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS

Patricia Mignella

So, you thought you knew everything about QUORUMS. Such an easy concept for club members to grasp – right? Not so fast. Let's see what you really know about this essential parliamentary tool.

The QUORUM is the number of members that must be present in order to transact business. The authority to take action is passed from the entire membership to a smaller group. The QUORUM can be set by Statute, in the BYLAWS or in the PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY. STATUTES normally set a minimum quorum but not a maximum. In the absence of a specific provision in a club's bylaws, a quorum is a majority of the members. This is sufficient for a board of directors, for instance, but achieving a quorum gets very difficult when the membership is very large or spread over a large geographic area. Therefore, the quorum should be clearly stated in the bylaws to meet the unique circumstances of each club.

A quorum set too low can allow a small unrepresentative group to take action when, had a larger quorum been required, better decisions might have prevailed. A quorum set too high means meetings are stopped or can't even begin due to lack of a quorum. If the pattern of attendance indicates a trend toward not having a quorum, or if getting a quorum becomes more work than putting together the AGENDA, it's time to address the problem before it becomes impossible. Look at what COVID did to club meetings. Some clubs went to ZOOM MEETINGS while other clubs stopped meeting altogether.

The quorum can be expressed as a whole number or as a percentage. There are pros and cons to both. If the quorum is a whole number, it is easy to tell when a quorum is present, as the number stays constant from meeting to meeting. However, if the club membership grows, the quorum may become too small and need to be adjusted on an "as need" basis.

If the quorum is expressed as a percentage, it must be reestablished at each meeting. Clubs would need to make new calculations each time the membership number changes. In the case of our NJSFWC state conventions, the calculation should be made as of a specific date, which is described in the bylaws along with the quorum percentage.

Some statutes state that, if a quorum is present at the start of a meeting, it continues until adjournment regardless of the number of people who leave early. That means that members who leave before the meeting adjourns have given their inferred consent to whatever happens afterward.

If you're still wondering if quorums are absolutely necessary for clubs to function properly, actions taken without a quorum are NULL & VOID, although it's possible to ratify actions at the next meeting – provided there is a quorum. Any actions taken by club members such as purchases are the responsibility of the individual, not the club, until the action is ratified.

QUORUMS SERVE THEIR PURPOSE WELL. EMBRACE THE CONCEPT!!
