



## THE STATE NEWSLETTER

**New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC**

55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, N J 08901

**President's Message—** Barbara McCloskey

I hope you had a nice, relaxing summer! Although, that might have been in the past, since many of us now spend our summers working on our club calendars, budgets and planning our fall fundraisers.

That is certainly what the Board of Directors were working on. They have been busy reviewing and updating the Supplements, the NJSFWC website, creating articles for the ALMANAC, planning workshops and other materials to support you, the members.

- ◆ The updated Supplements will be available in the NJSFWC Yearbook, on the website and copies will be mailed to Club President's.
- ◆ The report forms and the instructions have also been updated. The membership categories will remain the same for judging: 4-20, 21-40 and 41+. Please consider writing about your club projects and fundraisers.

The eConnection comes out every week and contains reminders and information to support the clubs. As of now, about 2,000 of our approximately 6,000 members subscribe to the eConnection.

Since communication is one area that we hope to improve on in the coming year, please consider signing up for this weekly email. There will be more 'links' to materials and forms and additional reminders of upcoming events. Visit [njsfwc.org](http://njsfwc.org) and click on 'News' to subscribe.

Presidents, you can forward the eConnection emails to your members, or better yet, sign them up on the NJSFWC website! This is just one of the many benefits of membership.

Thank you to all the members who attended the Meet & Greet at Headquarters, and for those who joined me and the other Vice President's from the Southern District at President-elect Susie Chambers house in Swanton.

- ◆ The State Fall conference will be at a new location this year. Please join us at the APA Hotel, located in Iselin and right off of exit 131 on the parkway. Chairman Tina Ree and her committee have been working hard to make this a great event and there will be rooms available right at the hotel if you wish to come down Sunday and stay overnight. Look for the invitation in this ALMANAC.
- ◆ Congratulations and best wishes to immediate Past State President Shirley Holly for a great two years, ending with the 130th Anniversary Celebration at our Convention in May at the Hard Rock Hotel.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our yearly fundraiser at the Lobster Shanty, located in Point Pleasant. We definitely need a bigger venue to accommodate all who wish to attend! If you have any ideas for a location, with a view of the water, please contact our Financial Secretary, Debbie Cibelli.

This President is looking forward to visiting many clubs over the next two years, and sharing in your events and celebrations. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions or questions.

In Federation Friendship,

*Barbara*  
Together in Service  
United in Friendship

## In this issue:

NJSFWC Executive Committee Articles	2
District Vice President Articles	4
Community Service Program Articles	9
Standing Committee Articles	12

## Special points of interest:

## State Dates

Fall Conference Registration

130th Celebration Registration

Woman of Achievement Nomination Form

CANVA Workshop

1894 Society Form

**Together in Service****United in Friendship**

## **BYLAWS CHANGE**

Greetings!

I would like to speak about a big change in the State Federation Bylaws for 2025.

How many of you were at Convention?

Every year at Convention we bring the Bylaws changes to the members for the delegates to vote on. That is where this Bylaw change was voted on by the delegates who attended.

As you know, all clubs need to send in their Yearbook Data Form (aka Blue Sheet) to Headquarters by May 1st with how many members they have. That number is used by us to formulate our state budget for the year, which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is also the membership number we send to GFWC.

Just as you put together a yearly budget for your club to operate, so do we.

Bylaw 3.4 Annual Dues section F previously said that all Dues are payable on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> and clubs generally were receiving a dues bill in September.

The new Bylaw, which was passed at Convention now reads: Dues are due and payable with the submission of the Yearbook Data Form, AKA the Blue Sheet by May 1, 2025.

This change may also mean for some clubs that you will have to change or update your Bylaws to ensure that you receive all dues before the May 1, 2025 deadline. This is actually a good time, if you have not already, to bring your fiscal year in alignment with the Federation's fiscal year.

We keep \$10.00 from the \$25.00 from each club member to use towards our budget, with the other \$15.00 going to GFWC. Now with a membership around 6,000, that gives us approximately \$60,000 as a base to work with.

As you know, we do have fundraisers through the year to complement that total, but we are working with a lot less funds than we have in the past.

By waiting until November to collect the dues, we have found that many clubs either decide not to pay dues for the number of members they previously sent by May 1<sup>st</sup> or tell us that that is now not their actual number of members they have, or inform us that they have decided not to remain a Federated Cub. Regardless of what clubs tell us regarding their membership numbers, we have to send GWFC dues for the number of members that we have reported to them based on what was reported to us.

The funds we receive from clubs, along with the fundraisers NJSFWC has throughout the year, help us to maintain our State Headquarters including all maintenance and insurance costs, electric and gas bills, the website, auditors, part time employees and other expenses needed for running the organization.

Remember that only \$10 of the \$25 you pay in dues per member stays with NJSFWC. Fifteen (\$15) goes to GFWC, our parent organization. We pay GFWC based on the number of members you submit on your Data Sheet on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you pay in November for fewer members than reported in May, we still have to pay that May 1<sup>st</sup> membership number to GFWC.

We are very lucky to have a Headquarters building and can assist all the clubs from this location. Many clubs run their organizations from their State Presidents living rooms!

Many additional reminders will be sent out, but it is extremely important that you understand what this Bylaw change means and how it will affect your club.

*Barbara*

Together in Service  
United in Friendship

**NJSFWC PRESIDENT-ELECT****chambers@njsfwc.org****Susan Chambers**

Welcome back from a very hot summer! This Officer is looking forward to working with you to continue to make NJSFWC successful and fun.

As Dean to the District Vice Presidents, this Officer's role is to share information to help you and your club members become the best volunteer leaders you can be, and my ALMANAC articles will give you that information.

Let's start by looking at the definition of leadership: a leader is someone who guides, helps and inspires others. So, in that sense, you are all leaders because you have taken the initiative through volunteer NJSFWC projects to help others! And leadership is essential to any community organization to ensure that programs run smoothly and effectively.

How do YOU act as a leader in your club? Are you an Officer? Are you a Chairman of a CSP or Committee? Do you run a fundraiser? Are you responsible for any portion of a project that your club has taken on? Maybe you oversee your club's Year End Report Writing. All of these positions require leadership skills.

In the months to come, you'll be receiving leadership tips through ALMANAC articles from me that will cover how to be an effective leader, mentoring and more. And be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, January 25, 2025 for a Membership/Leadership Workshop at Headquarters that will show you how to mentor within your club and with other clubs!

Tip #1: Be sure to welcome all members with a smile; let each one know you are glad they're part of your club and that you're very glad to see them. Simple, right? Smiles work wonders to put people at ease and to let them know they are valued just for being themselves.

---

**NJSFWC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT****sienkielewski@njsfwc.org****Chris Sienkielewski**

Summer is a time for dreaming and then along comes September and we put our dreams into action. As your club takes another step into a new administration, it may seem like you need to 're-invent the wheel' and find new projects, new administrative tasks, new program speakers, new ways to find new members and new ways to engage your current members. The word 'new' has two definitions: 1) not existing before, and 2) already existing but seen or experienced for the first time.

The tools in NJSFWC's toolbox can apply to both those definitions. Some tools you may have already used, and some may be brand new to you. All you need to do is open the door...or get on the NJSFWC website, attend district meetings or make a phone call to NJSFWC's experts who are ready to help.

The NJSFWC website is a plethora of information. Looking for press releases or a boiler plate sample to place on your own press release? It's there! Want to find some historical facts about NJSFWC and the programs created by other NJSFWC leaders? We have it. You need new project ideas or instructions on where to begin. Just look under the heading 'Materials' and you will find more than you need.

What are CSPs (Community Service Programs)? Each CSP is under the Materials Section and each CSP lists dozens of projects, resources and new NJSFWC Initiatives and GFWC initiatives. Resources include websites and phone numbers of other programs throughout NJ who are ready to offer services, speakers and other material just for the asking. All of your state CSP Board members have researched and examined new and current projects and are experts in their fields. Sending them an email or calling them will help you determine just what your club needs to further your service to your community.

Are you wondering how to write an agenda, utilize the talents of your members, write minutes, or lead a motion? The website offers a Leadership Guide for Successful Clubs, complete with a video. Look to the Membership Materials section to learn how to conduct orientations and mentor those members who are just waiting to share their skills. Do the words Charity Registration, Continuing Funds Form, 990's and IRS give you the shivers? No worries, it's all there.

And if you are wondering how to learn more from other clubs or share some exciting new ideas, don't forget to attend District Councils held in September, January and June with a fun Spring Luncheon in April.

We have only touched the tip of the NJSFWC iceberg.... there is so much more. And once you learn, don't keep the information to yourself. Let others know. NJSFWC wants to provide each member an opportunity to learn and grow.

---

**NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT****dahl@njsfwc.org****Patricia Dahl****Membership Grant**

The 2024 Membership Grant deadline for all applications is October 1, 2024. All clubs are eligible to apply for a \$100 grant awarded to clubs in 2024. There will be two club winners from each Membership Category. The directions are on the Website - NJSFWC.org - under Materials, Membership. Applications should be sent to NJSFWC Headquarters.

Do you or your club have an **Elevator Speech or Pitch?**

An elevator speech is important because **it communicates the most important aspects of your club within a short window of time**. It is also an invitation to be part of your club. Most people estimate that an elevator ride in New York City takes about two minutes. It shouldn't be longer.

When someone asks the age-old question, "What do you do?" they're giving you the chance to talk about the incredible work your club and NJSFWC does. You can make a big impact in a short time, but you want to make sure it's a **positive** impact.

**Dos and Don'ts of Elevator Speeches**

- Do practice. Read it out loud and identify the parts that are tricky to say. It shouldn't sound like you memorized it and don't read off index cards! Practice it with your members, too.
- Do bring your mission to life with examples. This is where specifics and successes come in. Try to answer the following:
  - Who do your club projects impact?
  - What is your mission (look at NJSFWC and GFWC's mission)
  - Where are you located?
  - Why should your listener care about your club?Just be careful not to overwhelm with examples.
- Do give your business card as a wrap up to the pitch. Every club member should have at least 5 business cards with them.
- Don't use jargon. If your pitch is loaded with the NJSFWC alphabet soup, your listener will likely tune you out. Use plain language.
- Don't answer questions with a list. When someone asks, "What do you do?" use this as an opportunity to explain a few things your club focuses on.

The great thing about an elevator pitch is that it's not set in stone. You can update it as your club grows or even tailor it to your audience. Craft different pitches for when you find yourself at a gala, dinner or one of the kid's soccer games.

**NJSFWC TREASURER****carbley@njsfwc.org****Linda Carbley**

The first week of September, all Presidents should receive a mailing from NJSFWC Headquarters. The envelope will contain:

- The Dues Bill for the 2024-2025 club year. Your club dues are due to Headquarters on or before November 1, 2024. If your club submitted the blue sheet (yearbook data 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 to pay for the number of members reported in the 2023-2024 club year regardless of your current membership.
- The Charitable Registration Form for 2025, which is due September 30, 2024 and the cost is \$15.00.
- The Continuing Funds Form for 2025 which is due April 1, 2025. Along with the Continuing Funds Form is the Explanation of the Continuing Funds.

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.

If you have any questions, please call me at 732-522-1314 or email me at [carbley@njsfwc.org](mailto:carbley@njsfwc.org).

**NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY****cibelli@njsfwc.org****Debbie Cibelli**

As September approaches, we would be remiss if we didn't thank everyone for all the support shown for the Headquarters fundraiser held at the Lobster Shanty. THANK YOU!

As your club's year is about to ramp up after the summer break, many of you are looking to put together fundraising ideas for the year. Whether your club is large or small, the NJSFWC website as well as the newly revamped GFWC website are great resources for ideas.

To see ideas from NJSFWC go to the website, click on the materials tab, scroll down to Treasurer and Financial Information and Forms, and you click on the link Top 10 Fundraising Ideas. To view ideas from GFWC is just as easy. Follow the steps above and click on the link GFWC Top Projects and Fundraising.

The September Council meeting is also a great resource. With clubs in your District attending, your District Vice President usually asks each club to present their top three fundraising ideas.

We are also looking for members to join our Grant Committee. If you have any experience writing grants or would like to join us, please contact this Officer.

Lastly, save the date.... November 17<sup>th</sup>.... please see the flyer for NJSFWC's 130<sup>th</sup> Celebration. If you missed the Lobster Shanty, here is your chance to attend another fun filled luncheon event with the famous "John the Singing Florist", raffle baskets, including some of his work, and a 50/25/25.

**COLLEGE DISTRICT****dobalo@njsfwc.org****Laurel Dobalo**

As we all begin meetings again, remember our goal: "Together in Service, United in Friendship."

**Branchburg Woman's Club** will hold a Potluck Supper and fundraiser at the Branchburg Country Fair.

**Bridgewater Woman's Club** will be touring The Seeing Eye, have a speaker on the history of Martinsville and have a fundraiser on November 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring a Magician.

**Central Valley Contemporary Woman's Club** is collecting items for the Sandwich Ministry and will make Blizzard Bags.

**Woman's Club of Clinton** will have a speaker for Project Linus and make stockings for the troops.

**Woman's Club of Cranbury** will have a tent at "Cranbury Day" and a luncheon in September.

**East Brunswick Woman's Club** will be holding their annual Charity Luncheon on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at VFW Post 133, 485 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick.

**Flemington Woman's Club** will have a presentation on the woman who helped manage the Brooklyn Bridge Project, and a presentation on scams.

**Franklin Woman's Club** partnered with the Youth Center to create a Community Art Project.

**Friday Club** will have a speaker addressing nutrition needs as we age and an auction fundraiser in October.

**The Woman's Club of Hillsborough** will have a Cash for Gold event and fill grocery bags for Day of Service.

**Kalmia Woman's Club** will hold a rummage sale and have a speaker talking about his years as a newspaperman.

**Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** will celebrate their 139<sup>th</sup> year and hear about a woman who was a line of communication between prisoners of war and their families during WWII.

**Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township** will hold a gift card raffle fundraiser and a Bag Lady Tricky Tray with handbags and gift cards as prizes.

## GARDEN DISTRICT

schneider@njsfwc.org

Mary Schneider

**Woman's Club of Edgewater Park** helped celebrate their town's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by manning a booth. They celebrated their 105-year-old Honorary Member's birthday.

**Gloucester County Women's Club** provided breakfast at Ronald McDonald House in Camden, held three fundraisers, and filled backpacks in time for the school year.

**The Haddon Fortnightly** will celebrate their 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a member of the NJSFWC in September which will kick off their new club year.

**The Haddon Fortnightly EMD** participated in their town's Fourth of July parade dressed in Barbie attire. They continue donating sandwiches to Cathedral Kitchen.

**Marlton Woman's Club** donated a bench to their town as part of their celebration of their club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club collected 3,000 books for Books Smiles.

**Woman's Club of Medford** donated grocery gift cards to local school districts for families in need over the summer months and continued their book club through the summer.

**Woman's Club of Merchantville** had a summer catered barbecue picnic for their members. They have a bus trip planned to Williamsburg/Norfolk September 22-26.

**Woman's League of Mount Holly** supported the Military Family Support Group of Southern NJ by purchasing requested items to send to the troops. They help stock the food pantry at Ft. Dix.

With an influx of new members, the **Women's Club of Runnemede** organized summer social activities. The club's Fall Fair takes place on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Woman's Club of West Deptford** is getting ready to stuff stockings for the Yellow Ribbon Project, prepare for their Annual Fall Basket Raffle fundraiser, and collect food for a local pantry.

**Woman's Club of Woodstown** participated in the Woodstown Lake Fest with a membership info table. They will have a Sock Party this month collecting socks for a local women's shelter.

## HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

jeisi@njsfwc.org

Karen Jeisi

**Hopatcong Woman's Club** collected school supplies for the local elementary schools and for NJ Children's Alliance, and donated to the local library for the Summer Reading Programs.

**Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills** awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and six \$75 awards to high school students for citizenship. They supported Heifer International with donations to buy a sheep, a flock of chicks, and honeybees.

**Roxbury Woman's Club** collected backpacks and school supplies for Roxbury Social Services and NJ Children's Alliance. In August, they conducted a Food Drive for Roxbury Social Services.

**Sparta Woman's Club** raised \$1,000 in a tricky tray held in June.

**Thursday Morning Club** awarded four scholarships of \$2,000 each to graduating high school students and two citizenship awards to junior high students. Attended the June 26<sup>th</sup> open house in Long Valley for Operation Chillout's first of its Tiny Houses for homeless veterans. Collected backpacks and school supplies, with a push to have a large donation at bingo in July.

**Vernon Township Woman's Club** held a new member tea in August at the Vernon library; members and guests learned about the benefits of membership and viewed the various service projects.

**HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)**

**Washington Woman's Club** obtained a NexTrex Bench to be placed in the Washington Community Gardens dedicated to late NJSFWC Board member Barbara Rose and her husband Paul Rose, for their contribution to the gardens. They continue to collect plastic for another NexTrex bench for the local park. They participated in local events with tables at June's Sustainably Green Music and Arts Festival, Local Awareness Day in August, and National Night Out on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**LIBERTY DISTRICT****Susan Chambers, President Elect in absence of DVP**

The **Woman's Club of Allwood** will have virtual Tricky Tray in October.

The **Woman's Club of Arlington** attended an Eco-cruise on the Hackensack River this summer and held a membership social in July. A new project for this year: Roots and Wings, an organization that provides support for children aging out of foster care. Their EMD celebrated National Senior Citizens Day in August.

The **Woman's Club of Belleville** had two NJSFWC Poetry contest winners and held a successful Tricky Tray and Fish Fry Fundraisers. This fall they'll be holding a membership drive, a clothing drive, and will collect for the Food Pantry.

The **Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** is busy planning their May 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They'll be having a "Meet and Greet" Ice Cream Social in September.

The **Woman's Club Caldwell** visited the Reeve's Reed arboretum in Summit to enjoy the artwork of Susan Darwin who specializes in view of New Jersey. They collected pet supplies for the Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter and gently used bathing suits for the NJ Recreation and Park Association.

The **Woman's Club Maplewood** made no-sew blankets this summer for Family Promise. They also gathered backpacks with school supplies for Family Promise. Members visited the Thomas Edison Museum. Their EC mentored newly elected chairmen.

The **Montclair Women's Club** held a summer mix and mingle in July.

The **Roseland Jr. Woman's Club** had a "Meet the Author" with Lucille Guarino who wrote "Elizabeth's Mountain." They're having an Antique Road Show in September.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** held two summer luncheons and welcomed 21 new members at a New Members Tea

The **Woman's Club of Verona** are planning their biggest fundraiser: thousands of luminaries will be lit on the second Saturday in December throughout their town to symbolize neighborhood unity.

**PALISADES DISTRICT****drogo@njsfwc.org****Janet Drogo**

The Palisades District is busy filling backpacks for the Special State Project, NJCA, and stuffing stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking.

**Book and Needle Club's** program for their September meeting will be "Scams, Frauds and Stay Alert" presented by the Bergen County Division of Consumer Affairs.

**Woman's Club of Carlstadt** is having a Calendar Raffle. Tickets will be distributed at the September meeting.

**Woman's Club of Cresskill** is planning a garage sale.

**Woman's Club of Englewood** will be taking food to the Center for Food Action.

**PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)**

**Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights** is celebrating 80 years of service to the community in September.

The **Woman's Club of Haworth** will be participating in Haworth Day.

**Woman's Club of Lyndhurst** will be making tray favors out of detergent caps to be distributed at nursing homes for Veterans Day.

**Woman's Club of Leonia** will be starting the new year with a Sloppy Joe luncheon.

**Woman's Club of New Milford** will start the new year with a Welcome Back Pizza party.

**Woman's Club of Norwood-Northvale** will participate in the Northvale Town Day September 7<sup>th</sup> and Norwood Town Day September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Woman's Club of Paramus** has been invited to join the Book Club at a local senior community to bring a new perspective and faces to the club.

**Ridgefield Park Woman's Club** will hold a Vacation Auction at their September meeting, and have invited their GCI delegate to speak

**Junior Woman's Club of River Edge** made sandwiches and care packages for His Helping Hand in Paterson.

**Woman's Club of Rutherford** will host its Annual Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale on September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **Woman's of Westwood** is working on GFWC Day of Service.

---

**RAMAPO DISTRICT****witty@njsfwc.org****June Witty**

**Pines Lake Women's Club** is putting together Christmas stockings for the troops.

**The Woman's Club of Franklin Lakes** is entering its first full year as a new club. The newly elected Executive Board/Committee Chairmen are putting in place a yearly calendar, new Bylaws, a club Directory and a Fundraising project for charities. Luncheon meetings have proved popular

**West Milford Township Woman's Club** is holding workshops to prepare crafts for the Victorian Christmas Gift Shop, and giving backpacks to needy children at two local churches.

**Montville Township Woman's Club's** most recent fundraiser is 50/50 cash raffle. October 25<sup>th</sup> is their Fish Dinner.

**Woman's Club of Ramsey** has reorganized under a five-woman Governing Committee. In July they invited reps from Ramsey Responds which aids residents in need, and Several Sources Shelters which helps pregnant women and their babies to discuss their activities and receive checks. They also visited the Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Squads and gave donations.

**Riverdale Woman's Club** is gearing up for a busy fall which includes volunteering at the town carnival and getting ready to stuff stockings for the troops. Throughout the summer they worked on planning for the upcoming year.

**Ridgewood Woman's Club** recently received all our charity grant applications and will be reviewing and meeting again to decide on grant distributions. They recently had an open house for the 4th of July for all parade participants. They continue to have bi-monthly book group and movie nights.

**Saddle Brook Woman's Club** supported the Saddle Brook Food Pantry with a donation of diapers and baby wipes. They supported the town's National Night out with a \$250 donation plus set up a booth with handouts of club pencils and beach balls. They supported a town picnic with cookies and cakes.



## SHORE DISTRICT

osborne@njsfwc.org

Karen Osborne

The **Woman's Club of Asbury Park** is planning Country Line Dancing (a monthly recurrence) and a Rummage/Yard sale.

**Women's Club of Brick Township** will have a master gardener at their September meeting. Club members will attend the Music of ABBA performance at PNC Arts Center and tour the Gardens at Georgian Court University.

**Woman's Club of Brielle** will take part in Brielle Day. They run a large, juried craft fair as part of the festivities. They are adding a Kids Corner with face painting, spin art, balloon animals and an ice cream truck.

**Woman's Club of Colts Neck** held their annual Grandma Charlette's Apple Pie contest at the Annual Night Out, they had a table with brochures on their club, and two raffle prizes.

**Howell Woman's Club** installed their new officers at their end of the year banquet. Plans are to fill stockings in September and have a Welcome Tea in October.

**Woman's Club of Lacey** will be conducting their annual "Job Fair" at their September meeting where members make their commitment to working on two or more departments or committees.

**Little Silver Woman's Club** is preparing an Open House in September.

**Woman's Club of Matawan** will be holding two fundraisers, a Games Luncheon and a Sensational Salad Luncheon. They will sponsor an orientation for prospective members and collecting stocking items for the soldiers.

**Woman's Club of Middletown** held a yard sale to benefit their treasury. Their September meeting will feature a program on how to eliminate dangerous PFA chemicals from the environment.

**Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** held an Ice Cream Social where members prepared backpacks filled with school supplies for local students. Upcoming events include a Flea Market and their ongoing Cuddly Comfort Project (dolls for Alzheimer patients).

**Woman's Club of Spring Lake** is continuing their "Stripy" series of workshops on strength and balance and a Holy Guacamole Competition in September on National Guacamole Day. A professional chef will judge.

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT

speechley@njswc.org

Carole Speechley

The **Woman's Club of Absecon** had a table at National Night Out where they distributed club brochures promoting their club. They volunteered at the Community Senior Brunch, serving brunch items to the attendees. In September they'll work at Creekfest, a festival at the bulkhead and boat ramp on Absecon Creek.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** held their annual picnic at Cape May Point State Park with the members bringing food to share. The proceeds from their May yard sale went to purchase Backpacks for the NJ Children's Alliance Backpack project. Members donated items to fill them.

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** held a very successful fashion show. The proceeds helped them send two girls to GCI and to give out three scholarships.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** donated 10 pull-on shorts and matching tops to the Hammonton Early Childhood Center for kindergarten students in need. They held a Wine and Cheese Pairing Fundraiser at Plagido's Winery. The owner described each wine and cheese pairing. Their newly printed Berry Good 115 Years Blueberry cookbook went on sale at their table at the annual Red White and Blueberry Festival.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** met twice socially at a local restaurant on Saturdays this summer to accommodate working members. Their Knit and Crochet group's inaugural meeting is this month. Also in September, is their Paint & Sip Fundraiser. Will there be Fall masterpieces at Achievement Day? They also added a September Game Day to their calendar.

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT (continued)

The **Millville Woman's Club** is making donations to the Veterans' Home and Animal shelters. Members are learning Mahjong for the new Mahjong Group they're starting in September. Their successful Meet and Greet is their September Meeting.

The **Ex-Presidents' Club** held their semi-annual luncheon meeting in August.

## THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**Kathleen Reddick**  
reddick@njsfwc.org

### What in the world is Zentangle?

If you love the chatter and energy of your time with Club sisters, but yearn for some peaceful time with them, then a Zentangle session may be just what your Club needs.

Zentangle was invented by a monk, Rick Roberts, and an artist, Maria Thomas, as an American drawing technique known to encourage focus, imagination, and increased personal well-being. It is ideal for beginners and ardent hobby artists. This artistic method creates miniature repetitive patterns of abstract strokes on a 3.5-inch square paper "tile," using only a pencil or black pen. These patterns are called tangles. The small size of the tiles allows for a work of art that can be completed in a relatively short period of time and can be combined into a larger mosaic.

No rules! No mistakes! Focusing on the same strokes to create patterns removes any lack of inspiration or a fear of failure, and alleviates expectations. Your concentration is in a meditative state as you create one stroke after another until an interesting creation is achieved. Think of "ZEN" as an attitude, or a way of going through life and "TANGLE" as a collection of repetitive doodles.

So why not plan a quiet evening of Zentangle, or a series of sessions like the Spring Lake Arts and Culture co-chairmen scheduled? You will all leave refreshed and with a collection of "tiles" that can be used on greeting cards, framed, or just slipped into your wallet to bring back a peaceful moment when your artistic qualities emerged. All you need are pencils, pens, and 3x5 paper squares.

Here are some YouTube and resources to get you started:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOIxG3yjZQ8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqHFDft5zeo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLuCjQKWB0&list=PLuIKiylzTkW6dnfxGaOgDMuhASPDRhfiX&index=2>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_iFVRokPg&list=PLuIKiylzTkW6dnfxGaOgDMuhASPDRhfiX&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_iFVRokPg&list=PLuIKiylzTkW6dnfxGaOgDMuhASPDRhfiX&index=6)

*"Effects of Zentangle on Older Adults' Anxiety, Happiness, and Dexterity, Activities, Adaptation & Aging. By Alex McCord, Sandra McKenny & Louise Horstmanshof (2024).*

**Start Getting Ready for 2025 Achievement Day:** Your Arts and Culture District Chairmen were hard at work after a successful Achievement Day. The Supplement and the Registration Forms were revised to be more streamlined and user friendly. They can be found on the NJSFWC website under Materials.

## THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**brown@njsfwc.org**

**Ann Ribinsky Brown**

Welcoming poets and artists from all around the world, the Dodge Poetry Festival returns October 17-19, 2024, to the NJ Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ. This three-day celebration of poets and poetry honors this art form as a catalyst for communities to advance social change.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation was established in 1974 as part of the legacy of John D. Rockefeller. For over 50 years, the Dodge Foundation has committed to the well-being of communities across the state. The Dodge Foundation has distributed more than \$500 million in grants and technical support to nonprofits in New Jersey and beyond.

## ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

In January of 2024, the Geraldine Dodge Foundation gave the NJ PAC a \$107 million grant for the 2024 Dodge Poetry Initiative, with the goal to enhance lives through world-class performances, education programs, and community engagements. Last December, the Dodge Foundation moved its headquarters from Morristown to Newark's historic downtown area, at 550 Broad Street.

Passes for the Dodge Poetry Festival cost \$25 for a single day and \$50 for a three-day pass. Keep checking [njpac.org](http://njpac.org) for the daily breakdown of poets. In addition, two special performances are scheduled. On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., you can hear poetry from Nikki Giovanni, paired with jazz saxophonist Javon Jackson and bassist Christian McBride, bringing a message on social change. Later that evening, at 8:00 p.m., social singer, songwriter, and activist Joan Baez will present an intimate evening of poetry and conversation.

Should you be so inspired to attend this festival, it is this Chairman's hope that you enjoy what you hear, become inspired to write your own poetry, and enter the NJSFWC writing contest.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Dawn Pogosaew

[pogosaew@njsfwc.org](mailto:pogosaew@njsfwc.org)

This year, all of our Holiday Stocking donations will be sent to our troops overseas through Operation Jersey Cares. While gathering items for your stockings, please include medical and medicinal items requested in **the June 2024 eConnection Announcement**. **Do not stitch stockings completely closed as they need to be checked before they are shipped.**

Completed stockings should be dropped off to Headquarters on the following days (**between the hours of 9:00AM until 12:00PM**)

- Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please do not leave them in the Headquarters building. There will be a storage POD located in the parking area outside of the building. The stockings will be shipped in the large boxes that you can obtain for free at your local post office. If possible, please use those boxes to transport them to Headquarters. Do not seal the boxes.

District Chairman positions for Civic Engagement and Outreach are still open for the Liberty, Palisades, and Ramapo Districts. Please contact me if you have any members that would be interested in helping in their Districts.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Joan Murdock

[murdock@njsfwc.org](mailto:murdock@njsfwc.org)

Spelling Bees are not passé! They are alive and living in many of our Districts! Does your club hold a spelling bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in your community? Do you participate in your District's Spelling Bee? If not, please consider holding one this year! More and more schools are looking for our help to sponsor a bee! Any club can sponsor a BEE!

Preparation for Spelling Bee's start in the early Fall! Here is some information about how to go about it! It's easy...

Go to the NJSFWC website, under Materials, scroll to Education and Libraries. Spelling Bee the last item of information. There you will find everything you need to know about starting a bee, templates to use and valuable information!!

Our 2024-2026 State Spelling Bee Chairman is June Adair, a member of the Marlton Woman's Club, Garden District. So far, our District Chairmen are: Garden District - Marie DiMatties; Highlands - Cathy Haney; Palisades – Lauren Cerullo.

**EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (continued)**

We still need District Chairmen in College, Liberty, Ramapo, Shore and the Southern Districts.  
**Please consider serving as your districts Spelling Bee Chairman.**

**The 2024-2025 State Spelling Bee will be held on  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Federation Headquarters.**

**Did you Know????**

Since 1989 local clubs in the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) have sponsored Spelling Bees for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Clubs either hold a spelling bee of their own or ask schools to hold spelling bees, after which the club sponsors the three winners in the District Spelling Bee. Winners from the District Spelling Bee compete in the State Spelling Bee at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ.

Next month: Books, Books and More Books!!!!

---

**ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM****Dorothy Bernice****[bernice@njsfwc.org](mailto:bernice@njsfwc.org)**

Recently this Chairman visited the Save Barnegat Bay Eco Center in Toms River. Part of their mission is to increase science literacy about the Bay and create a new community gathering place while maintaining the Property. Activities include guided nature tours, clean-ups, gardening demonstrations, kayaking, and boating educational workshops, along with many others. During the time there, this Chairman learned that that 40% of the people who work in Ocean and Monmouth County make their living from the fishing industry, including repairing boats, shipping, and packing, etc. Visit [savebarnegatbay.org](http://savebarnegatbay.org) for more information and operating hours.

There are numerous Environmental Education Centers throughout New Jersey. These centers are great for club outings and with family members. Activities can include bird watching, workshops, boating, nature walks, and even craft shows. For a list of Eco Centers in our state, visit [www.jerseyfamilyfun.com/new-jersey-nature-centers](http://www.jerseyfamilyfun.com/new-jersey-nature-centers).

If your club finds and visits an Eco Center in your area, please let this Chairman know: [bernice@njsfwc.org](mailto:bernice@njsfwc.org).

---

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM****Katie Chambers****[chambers2@njsfwc.org](mailto:chambers2@njsfwc.org)****Announcing NJSFWC's "Let's Get Moving" challenge!**

Did you know that cardiovascular disease is the world's number one killer? Conditions affecting the heart and blood vessels – such as a heart attack, stroke and heart failure – kill more than 20.5 million people combined each year. 80% of premature deaths from CVD are preventable, by making small changes to our lifestyle: what we eat, drink how much we exercise and how we manage stress. September 29<sup>th</sup> is World Heart Day. The program has a Global Challenge that asks people to recognize and advertise cardiovascular disease awareness.

NJSFWC challenges its members to get moving to combat heart disease! Clubs are encouraged to sign up for September 29<sup>th</sup> for World Heart Day through the World Heart Federation – the link is available now on the NJSFWC website under "Health & Wellness" in materials. Then, let's get moving! Encourage members to start tracking their walking and exercising hours. Perhaps you could even start holding club-wide walks or attend exercise classes together.

Tally the total combined exercise hours completed by your members on your year-end report under the "Let's Get Moving" challenge. The clubs who log the most workout hours within their membership category will be recognized at Spring Conference.

Each month, we'll share a club exercise idea in the ALMANAC in addition to other Health & Wellness suggestions. Watch this space!

**ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN****dimatties@njsfwc.org****Marie DiMatties**

The GFWC Juniors' Special Program: **Advocates for Children** is designed to encourage women's clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The Program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level. ALMANAC articles will provide monthly suggestions for projects.

Now that the school year has started, there are many projects your club can do to support children. **Before working on any projects, make sure to find an organization that can use what you plan to donate.** An excellent resource for these organizations is listed in the NJSFWC Advocates for Children Supplement, which can be found on the NJSFWC website ([njsfwc.org](http://njsfwc.org) under Materials) **Supply School Nurses' Closets or Community Closets** -You can help stock these with items for students who may come to school without them. Contact your school(s) or Community Closets to see if items are needed. These might include bottles of water, packaged snacks or other non-perishable food items (no nuts), gloves or scarves for winter, and even feminine hygiene items for middle or high schools. Collect and donate new small stuffed animals to the **Police/Fire Departments and First Responders** to be given to children in traumatic situations. They will provide comfort to a child during these times. Remember to put the stuffed animals in bags, so they can be easily stored.

---

**BYLAWS****fosdick@njsfwc.org****Susan Fosdick**

The following Bylaw change was presented and approved at the Annual Convention in May.

- **Current Bylaw**: Dues are payable on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> which will remain in place for 2024.
- **Adopted Bylaw change**: Dues will be payable with the submission of the Yearbook data form, aka the Blue Sheet by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.
- **Rationale**: Our budget is based on the numbers reported on the Yearbook Data Form. This will ensure that we collect club dues more efficiently.

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 2024-2025 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

---

**COMMUNICATIONS****rothstein@njsfwc.org****Shelley Rothstein**

Thank you to all the clubs that submitted reports on their 2023 Communications activities to the previous Chairman! Many of you worked on interesting and unique projects throughout the year to get the word out about your organization. This month and next, this Chairman will share ten of the most interesting communications initiatives from 2023, so you can find ideas and inspiration for your next project. Here are the first five!

**The Woman's Club of Rutherford** joined their local Chamber of Commerce. They attend the monthly networking events with local businesses and other non-profit organizations. They were the monthly Spotlighted Non-Profit and have a member who actively participates in organizing the events.

## COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

**The Haddon Fortnightly Club** partnered with the Indian King Tavern, a NJ historical site, and participated in The Skirmish, a Revolutionary event. Their clubhouse was used for several programs open to the public, and the club ran a small fundraiser on Skirmish Day.

**Montclair Women's Club** encourages their members to remain active in their local community in addition to their club involvement. Members have served on the town council, the public library board, volunteer at the local food pantry, and serve on a local senior citizen advocacy committee.

**Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** ran a collection of used sneakers for reuse and recycle and encouraged their community's involvement by placing bins in public areas that feature club information and their logo.

**Vernon Township Woman's Club** had an information booth at the Vernon Street Fair staffed with members in their club shirts. They provided sample, pictures and club information. Their display featured the town's Photo Contest which helped draw more interest to their booth.

---

## COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM

[battaglia@njsfwc.org](mailto:battaglia@njsfwc.org)

**Jean Battaglia**

The Community Impact Program is GFWC's longest standing project, introduced in 1949 as the "Build a Better Community Contest." Clubs are encouraged to submit entries describing projects started and completed between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025. The first-place state entry will receive a monetary award and be submitted for a GFWC award.

During the 2024-'26 administration GFWC is encouraging clubs to consider Community Connection projects under each of the Special Program Areas, submit the results in the year-end reporting for that area but also submit an entry for a Community Impact Award.

For example, if your club does Education and Library projects, consider the Community Connection Initiative in that area, "Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs." Club women might volunteer in classrooms, at special events, at a facility cleanup day, or for clerical work. The club might sponsor a library card sign-up for children, coordinating it with other children's activities at the library. They can also join the Celebrate Advocates for Children Week in October or the Week of the Young Child in April.

If your club does Environment projects, consider the Community Connection Initiative, "Our National and State Parks Engage in Nature." Your club could plan a nature day at a local school or independent living facility, partnering with local park rangers or Scouts working to earn a nature badge. Purchase the Nation Park Forever stamps sold by the United States Postal Service and use them on club correspondence and donate them to a youth group along with literature about National and State Parks. Create a bingo game featuring local birds, trees, plants and animals and play it at a senior center or veteran's home.

A description of the contest and its rules can be found in the Community Impact Supplement on the NJSFWC website. The GFWC 2024-2026 Club Manual, pages 203-211, includes a full description of the contest, along with the entry form. Community Connection Initiatives with suggestions for projects can be found in the Manual under each of the Special Program Areas.

---

## FALL CONFERENCE/PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

[ree@njsfwc.org](mailto:ree@njsfwc.org)

**Tina Ree**

NJSFWC State Fall Conference will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at a new venue, the APA Hotel Woodbridge, located right off exit 131 or 131A of the Garden State Parkway, Iselin N.J.

The cost of the luncheon is \$60.00 which includes Registration. Lunch will include a salad, a choice of Chicken Franchise, Fillet of Salmon or Penne Primavera, and Chocolate Ganash Cake for dessert with coffee or tea. Pitchers of regular and diet soda will be on the table, there will be a cash bar.



**GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE (continued)**

This Director has already started planning for next year. All the paperwork is being revised and deadlines will be strictly adhered to. All monies must be postmarked by January 31, 2025, which is the same as last year.

Online applications must be completed by March 20, 2025. No applications will be accepted after that date.

All eight Orientations will be held in April. This change is necessary due to the demands made by Rutgers. Orientations will be as followed: College April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Southern April 6<sup>th</sup>, Shore April 7<sup>th</sup>, Highlands April 13<sup>th</sup>, Liberty April 14<sup>th</sup>, Ramapo April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Palisades April 24<sup>th</sup>, Garden April 27<sup>th</sup>. All delegates and alternates MUST attend an orientation to attend GCI.

For next year, we are asking all clubs to send as many delegates as you wish but only select one alternate.

A GCI workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at NJSFWC Headquarters. Anyone involved with GCI is encouraged to attend. All new procedures will be explained with handouts available.

We had excellent Keynote and workshop speakers and hopefully all will return next year. However, we are always looking for additional speakers to enhance our program. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let me know.

Again, this Director wishes to emphasize all deadlines will be strictly adhered to – no exceptions!

Another huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's GCI.

---

**HEADQUARTERS****fowler@njsfwc.org****Adrienne Fowler**

Located at 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, is the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Headquarters. New Jersey is one of only eight states to have its own Headquarters' building.

In May of 1964 the then President Lavenia S. Taylor announced at Convention that the building of a permanent Headquarters would be her administrations project. In 1965, the lease was officially signed and building got under way. In 1966, 22 months later the building was complete.

While the building, all 3,735 square feet of it, belongs to the NJSFWC the two acres of land that it sits on does not. To fund the cost of the lease the 1894 Society was established. 1894 of course being the year that the NJSFWC was federated. All members and clubs are eligible to join the 1894 Society.

What funds the repairs and wish list items? Your dues! Now while your dues cover some of the cost it does not cover it all. Right now, on the wish list are items such as: new padded chairs for the boardroom, storage units/shelves, windows (believe it or not, we need 18 new windows). The best way to support our Headquarters is by sending in your donations.

Please, when sending in monetary donations earmark it for Headquarters' Wish List and Repair so it goes to the correct spot. Should you wish to provide in-kind donations please contact Headquarters directly.

Another way that you can support our Headquarters will be by attending the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer you will hear more about this special event, but make sure you Save the Date.

Remember this is your Headquarters, it is a representation of who we are.

Please also know that each club is allowed to use the Headquarters once per year for meetings or a non-fundraiser event.



**HISTORIAN****quilici@njsfwc.org****Randi Quilici**

Over the next two years, this Historian will glimpse back in time and highlight some interesting facts about our founding New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs' Presidents. However, let's begin with the birth of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).

It all began with the vision of Jane (Jennie) Cunningham Croly, a leading New York journalist. She was the person most credited with the growth and success of the Women's Club Movement.

In 1868, when she attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens, Jane Croly was denied admittance based on her gender. In response, she formed a woman's literary club called Sosis, and this was the model for the nationwide General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of Federation by attending a Convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs in attendance, including delegates from three clubs in New Jersey, officially formed a permanent national organization called the General Federation of Women's Clubs. By the end of the Convention, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown of Orange, NJ was chosen as the First President of GFWC.

Due to the continued growth in membership and the vast geographical area covered by GFWC, it was a logical step for clubs in New Jersey to band together into a State Federation. At the time, there were 15 clubs with a membership of 1,900 women. By forming a State Federation, clubwomen could be brought together for an interchange of ideas and methods and the cultivation of good fellowship. Twenty-six Federations were organized in four years, and NJSFWC became the eighth to form on November 16, 1894.

Before the meeting adjourned, Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley, known for her pleasant smile, her skill in argument, and her broad human sympathies, was elected as the First President of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, (NJSFWC) at the age of 50. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Orange, the oldest club in New Jersey, and the pioneer club in the state.

Happy Anniversary to NJSFWC as we celebrate 130 years of milestones, achievements, and shared successes.

Your club can honor this celebration by having a general meeting at Headquarters, having your club Historian present historical facts, or joining President Barbara McCloskey by attending the Federation's 130<sup>th</sup> - year celebration on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. NJSFWC remains strong through the excellent leadership of our 59 Presidents and the enthusiastic support of its members. Thank you for your unwavering dedication.

**HONORS****hunterton@njsfwc.org****Kathleen Hunterton**

It's not too soon to start looking to your club members to select a deserving volunteer(s) from your club and community to be honored at the 44<sup>th</sup> NJSFWC Annual Convention in 2025 as "**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT**".

The Nominations Form is in this September ALMANAC.

**LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS****wisner@njsfwc.org****Jacqueline Wisner**

One of the most powerful ways to bring about change is to include your voice to our national legislators with the thousands of other GFWC members. GFWC makes it so easy, and all it takes is including your name to the **GFWC Legislative Action Center**. Go to [GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org) and look for Legislative Action Center and add your zip code where required. Your district congressional representatives will be identified. Then look for the prewritten letter, add your personal contact information and your letter is created and emailed to your representatives.

GFWC is requesting that members support the resolution to "**Increase FY 2025 funding for Programs that Address Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking**".

## LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS (continued)

The urgency is clear when statistics from the 2022 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey cite 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. This includes family/home, campus, and military sexual assaults and violence. Many of these cases go unaddressed and victims turned away because of limited federal funds, overcrowded shelters, overwhelmed services and emergency resources, such as legal advocacy, transportation, transitional housing and counseling. In 2023, the call volume for the National Domestic Violence Hotline reached historic levels. Yet 50 percent of federal programs received a decrease in funding overall.

Your voice when added to other GFWC members throughout the United States can make a difference on this issue and so many others. There are numerous issues, covered under the GFWC Resolutions, for which you can write a letter using this procedure.

---

## WEBMASTER

[webmaster@njsfwc.org](mailto:webmaster@njsfwc.org)

**Denise Hosier**

## Follow Us on Instagram!

Did you know that the NJSFWC now has an Instagram page? It was started over the summer, and all posts that are sent to [facebook@njsfwc.org](mailto:facebook@njsfwc.org) are posted on BOTH Facebook and Instagram! Be sure to go to <https://www.instagram.com/njsfwc/> and click "FOLLOW" so that you see all our posts.

Some suggestions for Instagram:

1. All photos in the same post must be the same shape. The preferred format for Instagram is SQUARE photos, although rectangular ones also work within certain parameters. If you send a group of photos, they will all be cropped to the same shape for Instagram. If you want to maintain control, please crop them yourself!
2. Instagram allows a maximum of 10 photos per post. But we on the social media team prefer just 2 or 3 photos per post, maximum of 5.
3. Why not make a collage of your photos? For a free way to make a quick and easy collage, try Be Funky, <https://www.befunky.com/create/collage/>. All you need to do is upload your photos and drag them into the basic format. You can also delete cells or change their size and shape.
4. Don't forget to write a caption for your photos. Be sure to include your club name and a description of the project or people in the photos.
5. Add HASHTAGS to your photos. This makes them easier to find on Instagram. The standard hashtags we use for the NJSFWC are: #njsfwc #gfwc #womansclub #womensclub
6. Finally, PEOPLE PHOTOS are best! No matter how many items you collected, we'd rather see your smiling faces!

---

## DAY OF SERVICE

[hrycenko@njsfwc.org](mailto:hrycenko@njsfwc.org)

**Linda Hrycenko**

The NJSFWC Day of Service will take place on January 20, 2025, which is the National Day of Service. The charity will be the Center for Family Services.

The mission of the Center for Family Services is "to support and empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve a better life through vision, hope, and strength". Our project will be addressing the needs for several of their programs with items that they have requested.

Each District will be supporting a program or programs in its local area.

Examples of contributions requested are items for newborn and baby essentials, welcome baskets for victims of domestic violence, and backpack care bags for young adults who are currently couch-surfing or living on the streets. Details for the specific items will be distributed at each District Council meeting in September.

On the Day of Service, our project will revolve around sorting and packaging contributions from clubs. Each District will host the event simultaneously on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the announced location for each District. The Center for Family Services will assist with the pickup of items from each of these locations on this day.

For questions, reach out to this Chairman at [hrycenko@njsfwc.org](mailto:hrycenko@njsfwc.org). This Chairman looks forward to working with members to assist in service to those in need.

**PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS kovacsfelici@njsfwc.org Gail Kovacs-Felici**

Under Membership (Article III) (RONR 56:19) **Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition is the Parliamentary Authority for the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (RONR)**. states there should be three subsections in the bylaws, Section 1 deals with classes of members, Section 2 the eligibility for membership, Section 3 states the required fees and dues, when they are payable, delinquency and when a member is dropped for non-payment of dues. RONR also states that if the financial obligations are too complex, such provisions can be set out in a separate article immediately following,

The NJSFWC of GFWC follows these guidelines in Article III MEMBERSHIP, Section 3.4 and Section 3.5. Section 3.4f, effective 2025, has been updated to read that "Dues are payable with the submission of the "Yearbook Data Form, aka the Blue Sheet" by May 1.

If the club's current bylaws state the date that the dues are due to Headquarters (currently November 1), then an amendment to the club's bylaws is in order to conform with the state bylaws. Previous notice is usually required along with a two-thirds affirmative vote - follow the current bylaws for any and all requirements.

If the club's Standing Rules include dues requirements, this can be done without previous notice and with a majority vote.

Finally, if the club's bylaws do not currently include this information and the membership wishes to do so, a special meeting may be called (RONR 9:13).

**If you should have any questions or need help updating your bylaws, please feel free to contact this Chairman.**

---

## **GFWC LEADS at the Convention in Chicago**

By Karen Osborne NJSFWC LEADS candidate

When I was first notified, I was the LEADS candidate for New Jersey, I had no idea how it would open my eyes to the significance and enormity of the organization to which I belong.

Meeting clubwomen from other states and countries who had goals and values similar to mine was amazing. The women who led us displayed such dedication and leadership qualities for their cause. Breakout groups and hands on activities that we shared throughout the day, gave us the opportunity to bond and gain an awareness of projects and techniques they found successful. I will always be thankful to NJSFWC for giving me the honor of this experience.

---

## **WANTED: Liberty District Vice President!**

Join this fun and vital group of NJSFWC volunteers. As the DVP's say "...it's the best volunteer group."

You do not need to be a member of the Liberty District to take on this position; you just need a heart for our Federation. NJSFWC has many resources available to you, as does the Board of Directors' support system.

Please contact President-elect Susan Chambers at [chambers@NJSFWC.org](mailto:chambers@NJSFWC.org).