



# ALMANAC



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

Spring is right around the corner (I hope) and brings with it many of our spring activities! Such as District Arts Performing days, Spring Conference and Achievement days and hopefully, many pinwheel gardens for Prevent Child Abuse prevent month in April.

Thank you to all the clubs that did participate in club spelling bees. This has been a popular event in the past and we hope that more clubs will participate next year so we can bring back the State Spelling Bee.

**This President would like to remind you about the big change in the state federation bylaws for 2025.**

Some of you may have heard this information before, but we want to make sure all members hear about this change.

- All clubs in the past needed to send in their Yearbook Data Form (aka Blue Sheet) to Headquarters by May 1st indicating how many members they have.
- That number was used 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.
- In the past, all Federation Dues were due on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>, with clubs generally receiving a Dues bill each September.

The new bylaw, which was passed at convention now reads:

**Federation Dues are now due and**

**payable with the submission of the Yearbook Data form, also known as 'the Blue Sheet' by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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<sup>st</sup> 2025 deadline.**

**(A copy of the New "Blue Sheet" is included in the ALMANAC)**

This is actually a good time, if you have not already, to bring your fiscal year in alignment with the federation's fiscal year. Federation keeps \$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 of around 6,000, that gives us approximately \$60,000 as a base to work with.

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

- 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.

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

In this issue:

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Special points of interest:

- State Dates
- Know & Tell Workshop
- GCI Wish List
- GCI Volunteer Form
- Headquarters Wish List
- Lilies Club Leadership Award
- NEW Blue Sheet

**Together in Service  
United in Friendship**





# ALMANAC



- **The Yearbook Data form can be found on the front page of your Federation Yearbook, on the NJSFWC website, under Materials and Forms and in this ALMANAC.**
- **Also, watch for a form to be included in an upcoming eConnection.**

One last item to remember: **the Continuing Funds Form is due to headquarters, postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.** Please consider contributing to some or all of the items listed, as the totals are added together by all the clubs who send in a donation.

There is an explanation of the items listed on the Continuing Funds form on the NJSFWC website, under Materials and in the NJSFWC Yearbook.

Thank you again for all you do to support your communities and our Federation.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

In Federation Friendship,

*Barbara*

**Together in Service  
United in Friendship**



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

For those of you who attended the Leadership/Membership Workshop at Headquarters in January, THANK YOU! We hope you learned lots and have taken what you learned back to share with your clubs as all good leaders should.

In the past few ALMANACS, we've looked at the importance of communication in various forms. Now let's start looking at particular traits of a good leader so that you can be one AND so you can spot one in your club.

Time Management skills are critical to success whether it's running a meeting, holding a major fundraiser .... or hosting a dinner party! Three steps in the ladder to effective time management are: Organization, Prioritization and Scheduling.

The first step in that Time Management Ladder is making a To Do list. Don't try to prioritize immediately. Just write down (on your phone, computer, laptop, hard copy, on the blackboard in your head) all the tasks that lay ahead of you. Maybe you want to have more than one list: one for each day of the week; maybe break that down to morning and afternoon. If you can check something off that list at the end of the day, great! If not, move it onto the next day's list ... or maybe it shouldn't have been on your list at all and you can eliminate it. Time sometimes takes care of our tasks and eliminates their need!

Next step: look at that To Do List and prioritize the entries with the most important items at the top. Determine the most important by keeping in mind due dates, commitments and how your tasks involve/affect other people. Be responsible and stick with your priorities. You can break them into 1-2-3 or A-B-C categories: 1) Don't do anything until this is done; 2) Do if possible; 3) this can wait.

Last step: make a schedule of those To Do items. Leave room for breaks as well as the unexpected (that can always be expected!). Make a schedule that is possible to follow. Break down a task into smaller parts if it seems too big to be accomplished.

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

Spring is soon beginning and so is Spring Cleaning! Just as we move through our home and make decisions as to what to keep, what to store, and what to destroy or recycle, the same is true for our club records. Every day in our club year is a time to get ready for Annual Reports, new officers, new members and new projects. This month we will explore some important papers that have a permanent historical value and records that we use on a regular basis but also provide for the efficient operation of our clubs.

Records that provide the most concise and comprehensive information about your club's mission and activities, include the following:

- Agendas: keep agendas that are part of general, board meetings and committee meetings
- Annual Reports for NJSFWC purposes and reports that go to the IRS and There are three types of records clubs normally utilize.
- Correspondence– (incoming and printouts of significant outgoing correspondence–delete computer file after copy is filed and document is no longer needed in electronic form)
- Minutes, agendas and attachment of committee reports (keep for 2-3 years)
- Bank statements, receipts or invoices.
- Directories of members and when they joined your club and when they left (if applicable)
- Policy and Procedure manuals
- Bylaws, charters and incorporation papers
- Clubs who own club houses should also keep: property management files, minutes and agendas if there is a clubhouse board/committee and any warranties for clubhouse equipment.

Incorporation papers and yearly corporate statements/payments and other materials that have a long-term value to the existence of your club should be kept in a well-labeled storage container. Some clubs actually have safe deposit boxes in their bank. Due to the fact that these records are permanent records for your club, they should be accessible. One of the best ways to make sure they are not lost, especially when there are new officers, an inventory list should be placed on the outside or inside of the box with the items. The inventory list –along where these items are kept -can also be duplicated and put in the files for the proper officer.

**NJSFWC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (continued)**

Other records listed above, which are more short-term items, should also be inventories and given to the officer or chairman who may need to use them during her term of office. The inventory lists can include:

- Name of the office that will need these files (EX: Membership Directories would be given to Membership Chairman)
- An overall description of the files in that box (EX: Correspondence; Minutes)
- Earliest and latest year dates for receipts, bills and invoices.

Basements, garages, self-storage rental spaces, and attics should not be used to store permanent and historical records. Ideally, storage space for permanent and historical records should be in a space that is heated in winter, cooled in summer, generally dark, free from vermin, and dry as possible at all times. The boxes should be on metal shelving, and away from water pipes.

The time you spend with Spring Cleaning your club's records will truly help you as 2025 ends.

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

**Understand and align their interests with opportunities in the club that excite them.**

Use a "Club Friend", an established member, to work with the newer member to answer questions, explain club procedures, history, and Federation facts. Orientations are a must but can seem a bit overwhelming. Having a "Club Friend" is a comfortable way to have questions answered as they arise. A new member who is familiar with your club, district, the State Federation and GFWC will be more apt to become involved because she feels she knows what to expect and what she can give. It is important that this "Club Friend" also acquaints the newer member with all the other members of the club in a further attempt to make the newer member feel welcome.

Be a cheerleader by acknowledging contributions of time and talents made by newer members. In addition, listen seriously to new ideas, encouraging newer members to put forth their ideas without fear of criticism.

Use a survey about six months after they join to see how the club is doing to satisfy their interests. It is much easier to address possible dissatisfaction when the problems arise that wait until a member is so upset that she will not remain a member no matter what is done to ease the situation.

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

A reminder that the Continuing Funds Sheet is due to Federation Headquarters and must be postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Please have your club consider to donate to these great causes, every \$1 donated adds up.

Here is a brief summary of the various initiatives that you can contribute to (the form and explanation can be found on NJSFWC website under Materials, Forms & Manuals as well as the Yearbook (page 200).

1. **Arts and Culture/Arts Performing:** Includes fellowships for art, drama, music, and creative writing students at Douglass College, as well as funding for arts-related events and facilities like the Walt Whitman Library and MacDowell New Hampshire Colony.
2. **Environment:** Scholarships for students in environmental and applied sciences, and funding for nature conservation efforts at Batsto Nature Center, Greenbrook Sanctuary, and Blackledge-Kearney House.
3. **Federation "Watchtower":** Established in 2011, this watchtower honors the Federation's successful advocacy in preserving the Palisades Cliffs from commercial development.
4. **Education and Libraries:** Various scholarships for Douglass students, including those for career-focused women, international exchange, survivors of domestic violence, and mature women returning to education.
5. **Health and Wellness:** Supports various programs like the Special Olympics, Project HOPE, UNICEF, and initiatives for eye health, with funding directed toward aiding vulnerable populations.

**NJSFWC TREASURER (continued)**

6. **Civic Engagement:** Includes a political science fellowship and support for veterans through donations to veterans' hospitals.
7. **Headquarters:** Funding for the maintenance, improvement, and refurbishment of the NJSFWC Headquarters, along with endowment funds for furthering the organization's work.
8. **Membership Promotion:** Contributions focused on increasing membership, creating new clubs, and enhancing the Federation's image.
9. **Shining Future Endowment Fund:** Supports scholarships, memberships, and initiatives for survivors of sexual abuse and human trafficking.
10. **Special State Project (2024-2025):** A new initiative supporting the New Jersey Children's Alliance, which provides services to victims of child abuse through Child Advocacy Centers.

Please note the new Bylaw which was passed at the May 2024 Convention:

**Federation Dues are now due and payable with the submission of the Yearbook Data form, also known as 'the Blue Sheet' by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

With this new Bylaw, some clubs will have to change or update their Bylaws to ensure that the club receives all dues before the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 deadline.

The Yearbook Data Form can be found on the front page of the Federation Yearbook as well on the NJSFWC website (under Material and Forms).

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

Thank you to everyone who sent in their reports for Fundraising. There were some really good and fun ideas. If you come to convention, this officer will be sharing some and I hope others will join in the interactive program "Fun" in Fundraising program we have planned.

On another note, the DVP's as well as the Board of Directors received tickets for the Mega 50/50. Books of 10 tickets priced at \$10.00 per each ticket are available.

- Our goal this year will be to raise \$12,000.00...So who's interested in possibly winning \$6,000.00?
- The winning ticket will be pulled on the last day of the Convention, Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> Winner need not be present.
- If you are interested in a book or two of tickets, please contact this Officer, Debbie Cibelli, at [cibelli@njsfwc.org](mailto:cibelli@njsfwc.org) or contact her at 201-264-6428.

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

The clubs of the College District will be welcoming Spring and the return to Daylight Savings Time in March, giving them even more daylight hours to help our communities.

**Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** will have Nancy Spears speaking about "In the Combat Zone - Recollections of an Army Nurse who served in Vietnam." They will also have their Annual Covered Dish Fundraiser on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Branchburg Woman's Club** will have Olga Aramini from the NJ Children's Alliance speak at their meeting.

**Bridgewater Woman's Club** will have host Alisa Dupuy who will speak about Vera Atkins, a spymaster during WWII.

**Woman's Club of Cranbury** is very busy! In March, they will have a paint party at Market on Main, a scrapbooking techniques workshop, visit Rutgers eco complex, fill Easter eggs for the Cranbury Easter egg hunt, and review The Dubliners by James Joyce.

**COLLEGE DISTRICT (continued)**

**Franklin Woman's Club** will be reading to school children during Read Across America Week. They will also be collecting books for elementary and middle schools.

**Holland Township Woman's Club** will be planning for their spring garage sale and their craft/vendor show.

**Kalmia Club** will kick off the 2025 Kalmia Scholarship program with a school visit to answer questions about the program and provide due dates to interested students.

**Metuchen Edison Women's Club** will hold their fifth Mahjong Tournament fundraiser with proceeds to benefit various Veterans groups. They will be collecting items for Moms Helping Moms and will start supplying a food pantry at the local Senior Center. This food pantry had fallen into disuse, but they will revive it!

**Somerville Civic League** will be bowling with Jack's Kids and taking part in their local St. Patrick's Day parade as well as supporting Reading Across America week.

**GARDEN DISTRICT****schneider@njsfwc.org****Mary Schneider**

**Gloucester County Women's Club** is holding their Adopt-A-Family Raffle with the proceeds benefitting children in need at Christmas. The club provides tray favors monthly to a local nursing home.

**The Haddon Fortnightly** is working on their Garden Tour. This club and the **Haddon Fortnightly EMD** will be supporting their local schools' art show for female-presenting artists of high school age and older. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, members will be "Bingocizing" – exercise, health info, and Bingo.

**Marlton Woman's Club, Inc.** held their Spelling Bee and had a Valentine's Day social for members at a local restaurant. Their Spring Bingo will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Woman's Club of Merchantville** read books at a local school for Read Across America Day. The club will host the District's Civic Engagement and Outreach Day on February 20<sup>th</sup>. They are preparing for their Buffet Basket Auction on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GFWC Woman's League of Mount Holly** made pillowcases for Providence House, continues to collect paper towel and bath tissue rolls for a local animal shelter, and with the help of their local Girl Scout Troop, "thinking of you" letters were sent to residents in nursing homes.

**Woman's Club of Penns Grove-Carneys Point** will be hosting the District's Performing Arts Festival on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Salem Community College. Their annual Soup Sale was a huge success.

**Woman's Club of Pitman's** House Tour was very successful selling 500 tickets. They are preparing for their Annual Clothing/Housewares Drive at the VFW in Pitman in April.

**GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede** is planning a Murder Mystery and will hold an afternoon tea at the New Leaf Tea Room in honor of a member who recently passed away.

**GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford** will have a speaker from the Child Advocacy Center of Gloucester County at their meeting, donated 15 blankets to the NICU at Cooper Medical Center, and have donated \$250 in gift cards to the Woodbury Child Advocacy Center. Members will be welcoming Spring with an afternoon tea at a local tea place.

**Woman's Club of Woodstown** – Residents of Friends Village joined club members to enjoy the Woodstown Middle School Chorus, all 99 of them. Four trees decorated with hats, scarves, gloves, socks were put around town for those in need to take. Members are collecting Spring decorations for the Vineland Veterans Home.

**HIGHLANDS DISTRICT****jeisi@njsfwc.org****Karen Jeisi**

**Woman's Club of Belvidere:** Along with the Washington Woman's Club, provided a delicious variety of breakfast and lunch items for the January 8<sup>th</sup> Highlands Council/Program Assistance Day.

## HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

**Blair Woman's Club:** Hosted the January Highlands Council meeting, raising \$687 for the NJ Children's Alliance with their silent auction.

**GFWC Woman's Club of Denville-Rockaway:** Held their club Spelling Bee with 30 fourth and fifth graders from five local schools participating. Club members volunteered on two days at Nourish, NJ in Dover, preparing meals for the needy.

**Long Valley Woman's Club:** Held its 36th annual Antiques Show on February 22.

**Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills:** Held their club Spelling Bee in January, and Cathy Haney, District Bee Chairman, organized and ran the Highlands Bee in February.

**Roxbury Woman's Club:** Selling discounted Hershey Park tickets to fund two scholarships and other community projects. For Valentine's Day, baked cookies for Roots and Wings.

**Sparta Woman's Club:** In March, will participate in the annual cookie/candy project, for distribution to local community organizations.

**Thursday Morning Club:** Held a Scholarship Social to raise funds for GCI and HOBY, last year's GCI and HOBY recipients spoke. To raise funds for scholarships for graduating high school seniors, held a cocktail party, inviting members of the TMC and the community. Hosting the Highlands Arts Performing Day in March.

**Vernon Township Woman's Club:** Baked and delivered homemade cookies to the Homestead Rehab Center and DASI (non-profit for survivors of domestic and sexual violence). Made blankets of assorted sizes for local organizations, including chemo and dialysis patients.

**Washington Woman's Club:** Along with the Belvidere WC, provided a delicious array of breakfast and lunch items for the January Highlands Council/Program assistance Day. On two Tuesdays in March, volunteering to read to children in Head Start programs; goal is to read 130 books this year. Continuing to collect detergent caps to make 90+ Meals at Home Tray favors at the March meeting; inviting family members and members of the community to assist.

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## LIBERTY DISTRICT

**Arlington Woman's Club EMD** members met at a member's home for dinner where they wrote 120 holiday cards and added a lottery ticket to each for the Kearny Meals on Wheels program. They also enjoyed a Yankee Swap while discussing plans for future activities.

The **Woman's Club of Caldwell** held a Mental Health and Aging program featuring two topics: "How to Have a Successful Retirement" and "Mental Health for Seniors."

**The Woman's Club of Little Falls** has placed an "ad" on their town's website to recruit new members.

The **Woman's Club of Maplewood** celebrated Founders Day that featured a history of their club and NJSFWC.

**Women's Club of Montclair** celebrated Mystery Month with a True Crime Panel of three authors who discussed the appeal of True Crime books, how they select and research their subject as well as the moral consideration of opening old wounds.

The **Junior Woman's Club of Roseland** held an Antiques Appraisal show with Jon Felz, the owner of RZM Fine Art and Antiques in Pearl River, NJ.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** held a Hodge Podge Holiday Party to celebrate a variety of holidays. Each table was decorated with a different holiday theme (Mardi, Gras, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving, etc.). Each member took a wrapped gift worth \$20+ that was auctioned off as they enjoyed delicious goodies.

The **Junior Woman's Club of Verona** held a Spelling Bee for local children. Be sure to check out their website of [veronajuniors.org](http://veronajuniors.org).

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

**The Palisades District Clubs** have been busy, completing their reports, rehearsing for the Arts Performing Festival, and working on their entries for Achievement Day.

**Book & Needle Club of Oradell** will be holding a "High Tea" Fundraiser at the Harmony Tea Room in Westwood on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Woman's Club of Carlstadt** is busy working on their annual Bunco fundraiser, which will be held on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 50/50 and Basket raffle. Refreshments and desserts will be served.

**Cresskill Woman's Club** will have a presentation by Bruce Hammer covering various topics such as 50s TV shows and other fun topics from the past.

**Woman's Club of Dumont** invited their 2024 GCI student to share her experiences. They will also be attending a Sunday matinee at the Oradell theater to see "Things My Mother Taught Me".

**Woman's Club of Englewood** is planning a Garage Sale. Date to TBA

**Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** is participating in the NJSFWC Challenge "Let's Get Moving"

**Lyndhurst Woman's Club** celebrated 95 years in February and will be having their annual Mardi Gras Dinner Dance on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Woman's Club of Paramus** is busy planning their Mardi Gras fundraiser.

**Woman's Club of Rutherford** will be hosting their St. Patrick's dinner fundraiser with Irish Step Dancers performing and their Mega 50-25-25 raffle will be drawn.

**Woman's Club of Westwood** is selling super 50/50 raffle tickets and the winner will be announced at their 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in April.

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

**Ridgewood Woman's Club** is collecting baby supplies for a local shelter, preparing for their Annual Garage Sale; funds will support the scholarship trust that assists over 20 students in need. In addition, they are working with the Fire Department's for their Annual Beef Steak Dinner Fundraiser:

**Allendale Woman's Club** Hosts BAG BINGO, Music & Performing Arts Association held at MPAA, Allendale. Members will be attending the Rotary Dinner. There is an event planned for Mocktails and dinner using specific recipes from a specific cookbook. The Fashion Show is April 9th

**Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** is working on a Tricky Tray Fundraiser along with an upcycle project for Achievement Day and making scarves with pockets that will be donated to cancer patients.

**Woman's Club of Ramsey** planning their Annual Heirloom Tomatoes & Plant Sale, along with restocking for Flower Power crafts, paper flowers, paper showdown art and other novelties to sell at their Spring and Summer fundraiser events, support the food pantry with Lunch Box Gatherings, sharing take away lunches.

**Montville Township. Woman's Club** is focusing on elections and convention, working on NJ Children's Alliance and SOS.

**Woman's Club of West Milford Township** is preparing for Spring Conference/Achievement Day. partnering with American Legion Auxiliary to offer complementary dinners to Veterans during the Auxiliary fundraising Dinner.

**Saddle Brook Woman's Club** assembling 50 plus Easter Baskets for the First Reformed Church's needy families. supporting the Food Pantry for Easter Dinner items. Assisting with the Town's Easter celebration, handing out treats and cookies to children participating in the event.



**RAMAPO DISTRICT (continued)**

**Upper Saddle River Woman's Club** contributed to a Souper Bowl Drive donating soup, dry goods and gift cards. Donations went to the Center for Food Action in Mahwah. Starting to organize for their May Blood Drive.

**Past Presidents Club of the Eleventh District**, will be having a Queen's Tea, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 11- 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55, 22 Old Newark Pompton Tpk. Wayne, NJ. Contact Jane Pullaro at [babeofblue@yahoo.com](mailto:babeofblue@yahoo.com).

**Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey**, is hosting an Evening of Icons Fundraiser Gala, March 6, honoring the inspiring women within their community for their dedication to education, local businesses and service, with an awards ceremony and dinner.

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**SHORE DISTRICT**[osborne@njsfwc.org](mailto:osborne@njsfwc.org)**Karen Osborne**

The **Woman's Club of Asbury Park** will have the Inspired Girl presenting The Lightworkers Series: A monthly gathering bringing thought leaders to the stage to explore varying topics.

The **Belmar Woman's Club** will have the Master Gardener from Belmar speak about container plants.

**Brick Township Woman's Club** is planning a Comedy Night Fundraiser at Uncle Vinnie's Comedy Club in Point Pleasant. It will feature two comedians and a three-course dinner.

The **Woman's Club of Brielle** held a homemade soup, chili and corn bread sale for Super Bowl. All sales are by pre-order and the pick-up is the day before the big game.

The **Woman's Club of Colts Neck** will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March.

The **Howell Woman's Club** will be baking Irish Soda Bread for Howell Seniors. Their second raffle is underway to benefit the Scholarship Fund and local charitable organizations.

The **Woman's Club of Lacey** on March 30<sup>th</sup> will be hosting a Hobby Fair in support of NJ Children's Alliance. There will be hobbyists and vendors from all around NJ displaying their crafts and wares.

The **Little Silver Woman's Club** is working on a May fundraiser, "Another Woman's Treasures." They are focusing on requesting speakers to their meetings and generating flyers to the community to collect gowns, costume jewelry, evening bags and shoes.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** will be covering coffee cans for their candy cookie project for the Food pantry as well as organizing and collecting nonperishable foods. A Saint Patrick's Day Games luncheon is also being planned

The **Woman's Club of Middletown** is organizing a diaper drive for the local VNA-WIC and working on entries for Achievement Day.

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**SOUTHERN DISTRICT**[speechley@njswc.org](mailto:speechley@njswc.org)**Carole Speechley**

The **Woman's Club of Absecon** will hear all about CASA's teen program at their monthly meeting. They're looking forward to attending the district's Arts Performing Day. They'll participate in Absecon's Annual Clean Up Day and Shredding event.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** will hold their major fundraiser, a Luncheon Card & Game Party, on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Price Hall. The day will include a basket auction and 50-50. The members are working on their entry in the district's Art Performing Day.

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** hosted a Spelling Bee for the 5th graders in the Intermediate school. They do cardio drumming as a fun activity for their club. For Appreciation Day they give all First Responders trays of homemade cookies and treats as a thank you for their service. They have ongoing Mahjong, which has been a great way to recruit new members.

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

The Hammonton High School display case will soon display the **Woman’s Civic Club of Hammonton’s** beautiful prom dress samples, formal shoes, and handbags to promote their free prom attire program. Their prom closet is ready to book appointments with young women and their moms. They plan to participate in the town wide Easter Extravaganza.

The **Millville Woman’s Club** will host the Southern District Performing Arts Day. We all look forward to listening to their wonderful chorus.

The **Woman’s Club of Vineland** is working on their Bundles of Books project. Members donate board and picture books, and cash to purchase additional books. The books are labeled with a sticker saying they're a gift from the club and then they're bundled into packs of 2 or 3. The Bundles are taken to Inspira Hospital in Vineland for newborn babies and children hospitalized on the Pediatric ward.

**THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**  
**reddick@njsfwc.org**

**Kathleen Reddick**

Spring is just around the corner, and it brings the most anticipated events of the year—Achievement Days in every District and the State. This is your chance to shine! All NJSFWC members are welcome and encouraged to express your creativity and compete for Certificates. Whether you are a Beginner or Advanced artist, baker, crafter, quilter, crocheter, knitter, or photographer, by entering your masterpiece or simply supporting fellow artists, your involvement ensures success. Let’s embrace the spirit of the arts and encourage one another to take part.

Here’s a summary of what you need to know.

Registration Details: The Supplement and Registration forms are available on NJSFWC.org. Go to Materials, then drop down Achievement Day. Pay careful attention to the new updates and improvements.

**Get your calendar out.**

<b>District</b>	<b>Date of Achievement Day</b>	<b>Registration Postmarked by</b>
College	April 10	April 3
Garden	April 17	April 3
Highlands	April 9	March 26
Liberty	April 2	March 19
Palisades	March 19	April 2
Ramapo	April 15	April 1
Shore	April 21	April 7
Southern	April 23	April 9
State	May 5	May 5 (in person)

Judging Criteria: As you complete your entries, think about what the judges will be considering.

- Composition
- Craftsmanship
- Creativity
- Flavor/Texture
- Technical
- Workmanship

Volunteer: It’s not too late to volunteer to help. Tasks include setting up displays, assisting with registration, and managing activities on the day of the competition. Email me or your Club’s Arts and Culture Chairman.

As we gear up for this statewide celebration of creativity, remember the ultimate purpose is to celebrate artistic expression in all its forms. This is not just about competition; it’s about connecting with one another, sharing our creative talents, and encouraging everyone to embrace their artistic side.

We invite you to attend your District Achievement Day and then in Atlantic City for the State Achievement Day to show pride in your entry, cheer on your favorite participants; and enjoy the displays of creativity.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day. Good luck to all participants, and let the creativity flow this Spring!

## THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM brown@njsfwc.org

Ann Ribinsky Brown

For 40 years, March has been officially designated by the National Association of Music Education for the observance of Music in Our Schools Month, the time of year when music becomes the focus of schools and communities across the nation. The positive impact of music education in the life of students lasts a lifetime.

This year (2025) the theme for Music in Our Schools is "United through Music."

Music in Our Schools is a wonderful opportunity to generate buzz for the music program and to draw attention to the important role that quality music education plays in every student's schooling. Some school districts will bring together in March all schools in the district for a joint performance. Other middle or high schools might run a March 'busker' performance program, whereby student musicians play before/after school at the entrance to the building an effort to expose the student body to various types of music. Elementary students often use March to prepare large bulletin boards with such topics as music in our lives; music is everywhere; how would you like your music?

As women's club members, we can attend choral or instrumental concerts in our schools in support of their music program. We can invite a particular sub-group of a high school choir, or perhaps the jazz band, to perform at a club meeting. Lastly, be vigilant that the music program in your district does not slip between the financial cracks of reading/ writing/ /math/ science/ athletics. It is up to us to assure that Music in Our Schools have an important definitive place in every school district.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM pogosaew@njsfwc.org

Dawn Pogosaew

Thank you to all the clubs who have sent in your reports this year!

March is a month to honor our canine heroes that serve in the military. March 13, 1942 is the official day that the United States K-9 Corps was established and became National K-9 Veterans Day. Canines have been used in war for thousands of years with the earliest records dating back to 600 BC. The United States continues to utilize them today. These canine soldiers go through extensive training in the military for a variety of specialized skills including detecting bombs or drugs, search and rescue, apprehension, and protection.

Check your local police department to see if they have a K-9 unit. They may be willing to speak at your club. Below are several organizations throughout New Jersey that are dedicated to our K-9 heroes:

- NJ Rescue and Recovery k9 Unit which is a 24-hour emergency response team: [njrescue-recoveryk9.org](http://njrescue-recoveryk9.org)
- Operation K9 Beethoven trains and provides service animals to help support veterans: [operationk9beethoven.com](http://operationk9beethoven.com)
- Capital K9 Association provides body armor and safety equipment: [capitalk9association.org](http://capitalk9association.org)
- GFWC Affiliate: Canine Companions for Independence trains and provides service animals: [canine.org](http://canine.org)
- Mission K9 rescues, reunites and rehabilitates retired working animals: [missionk9rescue.org](http://missionk9rescue.org)

April 25th – 27th brings Global Youth Service Day! Share your philanthropy with the younger generation this month and create a program to "Bring Your Child (or Grandchild) to Your Club Day". Create a program that centers around volunteering. An easy project could be to create cards for our veterans. Provide crayons, stickers, and heavy colored paper and write little notes of encouragement. Children love to work on small projects and at the same time you introduce them to a fantastic volunteer organization.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Joan Murdock  
murdock@njsfwc.org

Happy Saint Patricks' Day...

First, this Chairman would like to thank all the District and Club Spelling Bee Chairmen for coordinating their respective Spelling Bees and congratulations to all winners.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (continued)

In keeping with my St Patrick's Day theme, this chairman asked Jane Mackesy, the immediate past Community Impact State Chairman, to be my guest book reviewer for this month's ALMANAC. Jane has ties with Ireland and has researched her family tree extensively. Please read Jane's review of *The Queenstown Series* below...

*"If you are looking for a book to read in with Irish connections, I can recommend a series written by Jean Grainger. Jean Grainger is a USA Today Bestselling Author, from Cork, Ireland.*

*The Queenstown Series is set in what is now Cobh (pronounced Cove) and was known from 1849 until 1920 as Queenstown. It is a seaport town on the south coast of County Cork, Ireland.*

*Queenstown/Cobh is where many people (including my grandfather, John Feeney) left Ireland to come to the US or other countries. The first book in the series "Last Port of Call" begins in April of 1912. Queenstown was the last port that the "unsinkable" Titanic stopped at, so that factors into the story. The main characters are 12-year-old Harp Delaney and her mother Rose, who is a housekeeper at the Cliff House that overlooks the seaport. People who are about to leave Ireland, stay at the Cliff House before they board their ships to a new life.*

*The rest of the series follows some of those who stayed at Cliff House as they move to America and support the Irish as they fight for independence from Great Britain. You can find more information and hear Jean's lovely Irish Brogue as she describes her books at [jeangrainger.com](http://jeangrainger.com), or follow her on Facebook at Jean Grainger Author. If you like Historical Fiction, I think that you will enjoy it."*

Thank you, Jane for taking the time to be a Guest Book Reviewer this month!!!

Members don't forget to join ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) our Honorary Reading Sorority of the Education Community Service Program.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM bernice@njsfwc.org

**Dorothy Bernice**

This Chairman thanks all of the clubs who submitted Environmental Reports. She is so grateful that they were received in a timely matter allowing her to pursue any questions concerning about specific projects.

During this administration, NJSFWC President's Grand Initiative is to have a total of 130 Arbor Day or Earth Day projects throughout New Jersey.

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and mostly devoted to sustainable energy. Arbor Day is the last Friday in April which is April 25<sup>th</sup> this year. If you want to have a town wide celebration, first to call the local Department of Public Works and find out if they have Tree Committee. If they do, see how you could be helpful to them. What better way to celebrate than to have a tree planting celebration? Remember to promote the many ways trees can help your communities:

- Trees provide shade in the summer and keep the house cooled from the sun.
- They provide a wind barrier.
- They provide homes for birds and other small animals.
- Trees provide water for animals.
- They provide fruit, nuts, lumber and paper (some communities have planted fruit trees in low income communities which have become a source of nutrition for the people who live there.
- They prevent soil erosion

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM chambers2@njsfwc.org

Katie Chambers

Health is not just physical – it's also mental. Remember that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, so it's time to start planning any activities for it now. Consider joining the Campaign to Change Direction by pledging to learn the five things that could mean that someone is in emotional pain and might need help:

1. Personality Change
2. Agitation
3. Withdrawal
4. Poor Self-Care
5. Hopelessness

You can educate others about this with free posters and public service announcements from the Change Direction campaign, which works to change the culture surrounding mental illness. Spread awareness by posting photos of club members on social media, hand up to pledge, and stand with #ChangeMentalHealth.

Learn more at <https://giveanhour.org/>.

**March's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving:** Just because it's still cold out doesn't mean you can't get those exercises in! Keeping with our theme of mental health, let's talk about yoga. The practice of yoga is of equal benefit to both your body and your mind. Yoga helps your body by improving flexibility, strength, and balance through mindful movement and poses. It supports your mind by reducing stress and anxiety, fostering a sense of calm and relaxation. The practice encourages deep breathing and mindfulness, which enhance focus, overall mental clarity, and mind/body connection.

It's easy to get started – there are tons of free beginner yoga videos available on YouTube! Queue one up at your next club meeting and let everyone get a little flexible together. You can even try chair yoga, which is particularly helpful for older folks with limited mobility.

Looking to make it a service project? Partner with a local assisted living home to provide senior exercise equipment such as resistance bands and yoga mats.

## ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

dimatties@njsfwc.org

Marie DiMatties

### March of Dimes

The March for Babies is a fun fund-raising to help support mothers and premature babies, raise awareness of on-going research and advocate for policies that prioritize mother and baby health. March of Dimes provides instructions, guidance, and a web page to help organize an event and/or learn about upcoming events in your area. [www.marchforbabies.org/Home/SearchtoDonate](http://www.marchforbabies.org/Home/SearchtoDonate) - click on Teams.

March is **Developmental Disabilities Month** which shines a spotlight on the disabled community and demonstrates how people with developmental disabilities live normal lives. In turn, the public can learn how they can help people with developmental disabilities achieve their dreams. Developmental Disabilities include cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy, Down Syndrome, and fetal alcohol syndrome disorder which affect a person's growth and/or cognition.

## COMMUNICATIONS

rothstein@njsfwc.org

Shelley Rothstein

Studies have shown our number one fear is the fear of public speaking. Whether at Club or Federation events, leaders are often required to speak in front of a group. Here are some tips for a successful presentation-

- Research your topic. Collect and confirm the information, making sure you have all the details needed to present with accuracy.
- Organize your presentation. Your talk should have an introduction, the main body and a conclusion that ends with a strong message.
- Review and rewrite the content. Ask a friend or family member to give it a second look before you finalize it.

## COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

- Type the speech using an extra-large font size, wide margins, and double spacing between lines and triple space between paragraphs. Number the pages and place them in a binder for easy reading. Never read off your phone or tablet.

Good speakers do not just write and read or memorize a speech. Practice your presentation in front of a mirror several times to familiarize yourself with the script. This will help maximize your ability to maintain eye contact with your audience and increase your level of confidence.

On the day of your speech-

- Arrive early and make sure all equipment, including microphones, projectors, and screens, are in place and functional.
- Have a glass of water next to you.
- Speak louder and a bit slower than normal.
- Make eye contact with your audience. Look up from your notes every five to ten seconds to connect with your audience and, most importantly, don't forget to SMILE!

## CONVENTION

finn@njsfwc.org

Vivien Finn

Join us in May at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino as we “**Celebrate Good Times**”.

Sunday evening, we will be “**Celebrating 60 Years In Our Home**”. Following dinner, Past State President and Past International President, Mary Ellen Brock, will give us a history of our home away from home, as we celebrate 60 years at Headquarters in New Brunswick. Put on your dancing shoes as we learn a dance from the sixties. Will it be The Swim, or The Watusi, or The Monster Mash? You will have to wait and see!

Monday morning, you can walk on the Boardwalk with our President, Barbara McCloskey. Back by popular demand will be **DRUM2BFIT** led by Judy Bonato. NJSFWC Financial Secretary, Debbie Cibelli, will conduct a Workshop, “**Fun in Fundraising**”, followed by Second Vice President, Patricia Dahl, who will host a Meet and Greet Workshop, when you will bring your lunch and “**Celebrate, Converse, and Connect**”.

Arts and Culture and Environment entries can be brought to Brighton I, II, and III from 9:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. to be judged. Don't forget to stop by to see our Vendors who will be in Brighton IV on Monday and Tuesday.

The Opening Business Session begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Hollywood Ball Room when you will hear the reports of our Officers. DVPs from College, Garden, Highlands, and Liberty will be reporting as well. Awards for Best Reported Work will also be announced. Monday night, we will be “**Celebrating Women**” who will be honored as the 2025 Women of Achievement.  
More next month!!

## CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION

thompson@njsfwc.org

Carole Thompson

By this time, all Club Presidents, Past State Presidents and member of the NJSFWC Board of Directors should have received the “CALL to Convention” which was mailed in early February. Please review the CALL package carefully and return all registration forms as soon as possible.

**NOTE:** the forms that should be returned are on BLUE paper. They are:

- **Registration & Meals form**- keep a copy for your records
- **Club Presidents' Processional form** – this must be returned if your President/Co-Presidents are to process at the Tuesday Night Banquet honoring Club Presidents
- **Workshop Pre-Registration form**
- **Voting Registration Sheet – (white paper)** -ONLY Club Presidents receive this. **ALL club delegates & Alternates** must be listed on this form. The Past State Presidents and member of the NJSFWC Board of Directors are automatically Delegates. The NJSFWC Bylaws states “**No Delegate or Alternate shall be registered to represent more than one club or state organization**”

## CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION (continued)

Just as a reminder, the registration form should be mailed with ONE CLUB CHECK covering the amount due for your club member's registration and meals. The check should be made payable to NJSFWC Annual Convention, earmarked Credential and Registration and sent to Carole Thompson, 887 Route 539, New Egypt, NJ 08533, along with the other sheets that apply. This **must be postmarked no later than April 4, 2025**. After that date the late fee must be included with your payment. NO registrations postmarked after April 12, 2025, will be accepted.

A ticket will also be necessary to attend the **workshops**, so be sure to fill out and send in the Workshop Pre-Registration form.

Now is the time to make your hotel reservations. You **must contact the Hard Rock Hotel directly** following the instructions in the CALL. You must register with the Hotel **before April 25, 2025**, to receive the discounted rate.

If you have any question, please feel free to contact the Credentials and Registration Chairman, Carole Thompson, [thompson@njsfwc.org](mailto:thompson@njsfwc.org) or 609-468-4039.

## FALL CONFERENCE/PROGRAM ASSISTANCE [ree@njsfwc.org](mailto:ree@njsfwc.org)

**Tina Ree**

This Chairman wants to thank all the clubs who turned in their program assistance sheets. You had some wonderful programs which this Chairman loved reading about. One that was touching was "Riding with a Heart" about a nonprofit whose mission is to improve the quality of life for physically and cognitively challenged adults, children and their families, and to provide youth development through diverse equine-assisted programs. And there were so many more that were just as informative, just too many to list. Again, thank you.

Some exciting news is coming in October- we will again be having a new venue for Fall conference this year. So, save the date for October 20.2025.

## GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: [hill@njsfwc.org](mailto:hill@njsfwc.org) DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

**Claire Hill**

April is time to consider a Denim Day to support the Domestic Violence in your community.

### ABOUT DENIM DAY

Date: Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 – 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### How did it start?

In 1999, a driving instructor in Rome Italy, who was convicted seven years before of raping his 18-year-old student decided to appeal his conviction. His defense, her jeans were so tight that she would have had to assist in removing them. His conviction was overturned! Yes, you read right. The court argued that the victim must have helped the assailant remove them, implying consent. Outrageous, right? The Italian High Court released a statement that became known as the 'jeans alibi'.

Enraged by the verdict, the women of the Italian Parliament showed up to work on the steps of the Supreme Court the next day, wearing denim. Fast forward to today, and **Denim Day has become a global movement**. It's all about raising awareness of sexual assault, debunking harmful myths, protesting against victim-blaming and supporting survivors.

#### How can you participate?

Club members can support this idea by wearing their favorite denim pieces and spread the word! Share your denim-clad selfies on social media using #DenimDay and #StopSexualViolence. Club members can go out to dinner or lunch that day, take a picture and share it on social media. Use your website, newsletter and club meetings to talk about consent, respect, and ending sexual violence.

## GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (continued)

And if you're feeling extra motivated, consider asking club members to donate \$5.00 to wear their jeans to a club event during April and consider donating the money to the NJSFWC Second Chance Award or the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund.

But Denim Day isn't just about what you wear – it's about making a difference in the world by raising our voices against injustice and working towards a future safe for all.

Other ideas for April:

- Consider filling a handbag with personal care items for Domestic Violence victims. You could also include a prepaid phone card.
- Check with the local Police to see if they have use of old cellphones to rework to dial 911 to be given to someone in a Domestic Violence danger and then start a collection of used phones in your community.

Don't forget to check with the local shelter to see that the paperwork on the NJSFWC Second Chance Award was completed and sent to NJSFWC Headquarters.

### HEADQUARTERS

fowler@njsfwc.org

Adrienne Fowler

New Jersey State Federation of WOMEN'S club is partially in existence because of a few MEN. Yes, that's right Headquarters would not be what it is today without a little friendly help from a few MEN.

- Dr. Mason Gross, President of Rutgers University suggested and helped in securing the site in which Headquarters now stands. It is also rumored that Dr. Gross may have helped sway the Board of Adjustments as the land the Headquarters stands on was originally zoned residential.
- We then have Mr. Philip Levin who was a building contractor, lawyer and entrepreneur who helped by obtaining a preliminary architectural drawing by an unknown architect free of charge.
- Mr. James S. Jones provided all the architectural services for a "small" fee.
- We then have Mr. Raymond Jubnyik who not only was a speaker at the March 8, 1965 rally but was also retained for legal representation.
- Mr. Melvin P. Windsor was selected to be the contractor.
- In October of 1965 General Electric via Mr. Wall offered to install the kitchen appliances free of charge.
- Courtesy of Mr. Frederick Holman the Public Service Gas and Electric Company installed the gas free of charge.
- Mr. Richard Hale was the contractor in charge of the grounds. Mr. Hale dealt with the grade of the grounds and the driveway and parking lot. The parking lot was finished in April of 1966 and the very next day the Federation moved in!!

On October 5, 1966 the Sewarren History Club was the first club to hold a meeting at Headquarters. Please also know that all clubs are allowed to use the Headquarters once per year for meetings or a non-fundraiser event. All you need to do is contact Headquarters at 732-249-5474 to make sure that the date you are interested is open.

DEADLINE: March 31, 2024: LAST CHANCE to Donate towards the 1894 Society for this year. The 1894 Society is a fund that was created in 2002 to help pay for the amount Rutgers charges us to lease the property our Headquarters building sits on.

### HISTORIAN

quilici@njsfwc.org

Randi Quilici

Since 1987, March is designated as National Women's History Month and it is a time to celebrate, educate, and highlight the accomplishments and contributions of strong, determined women in history, society, and culture. **This Historian recognizes and celebrates 59** NJSFWC past and present State Presidents **during** National Women's History Month. You can also celebrate women in your club, in town, and authors to name a few.



**HISTORIAN (continued)**

You can read about many of these Presidents and other women who have made a difference in the NJSFWC by purchasing the book, "A Century of Challenge" at headquarters.

1. 1894 - 1896	Margaret T. Yardley	31. 1968 - 1970	Dorothy B. McGlade
2. 1896 - 1898	Cecilia Gaines Holland	32. 1970 - 1972	Dorothy T. Weinheimer
3. 1898 - 1900	Emily E. Williamson	33. 1972 - 1974	Mary R. Bixby
4. 1900 - 1902	Johanna Hartshorn	34. 1974 - 1976	Majory Bonyng Fielding
5. 1902 - 1904	Mary McKeen	35. 1976 - 1978	Virginia E. Zanetich
6. 1904 - 1906	Emma W. Newbury	36. 1978 - 1980	Marijane Singer
7. 1906 - 1909	Ida W. Dawson	37. 1980 - 1982	Emily Strakosch
8. 1909 - 1911	Mary Pattison	38. 1982 - 1984	Gloria Malasky
9. 1911 - 1913	Catherine C. Warren	39. 1984 - 1986	Dorothy M. Constants
10. 1913 - 1915	Jessie Alexander Ropes	40. 1986 - 1988	Betty P. Loizeaux
11. 1915 - 1917	Lillian J. Stockton	41. 1988 - 1990	Shirley G. Goettel
12. 1917 - 1920	Agnes A. Schermerhorn	42. 1990 - 1992	Marion Graham Arnao
13. 1920 - 1923	Sara S. Proal	43. 1992 - 1994	Joan M. Hunt
14. 1923 - 1926	Etta Gould Lee	44. 1994 - 1996	Dorothy Lowe Greene
15. 1926 - 1929	Edith Duff Gray Hubbard	45. 1996 - 1998	Cathy Southwick
16. 1929 - 1932	L. Ethel Heine	46. 1998 - 2000	Carol Hancock-Carleu
17. 1932 - 1935	Adele J. Grimley	47. 2000 - 2002	Mary Ellen Brock
18. 1935 - 1938	Mattie Eastlack Driscoll	48. 2002 - 2004	Ann Quinn
19. 1938 - 1941	Helen Purdy Adams	49. 2004 - 2006	Deen J. Meloro
20. 1941 - 1944	Elizabeth Middleton Maddock	50. 2006 - 2008	Mary Pat Marcello
21. 1944 - 1947	Louie C. Francisco	51. 2008 - 2010	Anne H. Redlus
22. 1947 - 1950	Alice L. Cornelison	52. 2010 - 2012	Patricia S. Whitehouse
23. 1950 - 1953	Marion S. Spain	53. 2012 - 2014	Linda F. Babeuf
24. 1953 - 1956	Grace Y. Christian	54. 2014 - 2016	Jill L. Passaretti
25. 1956 - 1958	Ruth B. Sanborn Burrill	55. 2016 - 2018	Jean L. Reavis
26. 1958 - 1960	Elizabeth B. Alton	56. 2018 - 2020	Mary E. Wolfe
27. 1960 - 1962	Lucille M. Dangremond	57. 2020- 2022	Jan W. Hanson
28. 1962 - 1964	Margaret D. Wagner	58. 2022 - 2024	Shirley Holly
29. 1964 - 1966	Lavenia S. Taylor	59. 2024 - 2026	Barbara McCloskey
30. 1966 - 1968	Geraldine Brown Sentell		

**HONORS**

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

**Kathleen Hunterton**

Time is passing so quickly; deadlines are approaching for Honor Roll and Order of the Lily. The deadlines are April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Order forms for charms and pins for Honor Roll & Order of the Lily were in the January ALMANAC. All Outlines & Forms were also in the January ALMANAC.

Any of the above forms can also be found online under Materials – Honors, Awards and Achievements.

The Judging for WOA was finalized and the Honorees will be notified and published in the program booklet for Convention.

Thank you judges for a job well done.

## LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

wisner@njsfwc.org

Jacqueline Wisner

March is Women's History Month and a time that we acknowledge the accomplishments of women in our society. But there is a dark side to women's history that can't be ignored. The scourge of violence against women still prevails in our society and must be continually addressed.

It's reported that in 2023, NJ domestic violence programs served more than **32,000** victims of domestic violence (and those were the ones who reported the abuse). **95% of** victims in NJ faced the need for emergency shelter and permanent housing. Housing tops the list of needed resources, and according to organizers, it can be the difference between life and death. And domestic violence hotlines throughout the state receive an average of nearly 24 contacts per hour.

Yet despite these harrowing statistics, domestic violence programs have faced a **20% reduction in funds** through the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) since 2018, and will face a **43% reduction in funds** through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 2025.

Now is not the time to reduce state support to domestic violence programs. **Contact your state legislators today!** Sign up for or into the Legislative Action Center (LAC) on the GFWC.org website where you can find the names of your state and local representatives and have a letter sent on your behalf to your selected representative. Or maybe you and club members can organize a letter or email campaign to your state and local representatives and urge them to support additional funding for domestic violence services in the FY25 State Budget. Your letters can include:

- Restore funding for Domestic Violence Services to FY24 Funding Level- an increase of \$2.3 Million *above* Governor Murphy's budget proposal.
- Support Governor Murphy's proposal to include \$6 million for Domestic Violence Housing.
- Support Governor Murphy's proposal to include \$4.2 million to support Abuse Intervention Programming. (Source: NJCEDV.org)

We are delighted that our state **LAC** enrollment numbers have increased 25% since August, 2024. This is terrific, but we can (we must) do better. Please sign up and stress the message during club meetings. It helps your community, your state and strengthens the presence of the GFWC, an ongoing force for positive change!

## SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

shoemaker@njsfwc.org

April Shoemaker

The Special State Project's statewide fundraiser is certainly a testament to our commitment to our SSP Project, New Jersey Children's Alliance, as many Clubwomen purchased lanterns to signify "Shine the path for Children" who have been abused.

This Chairman thanks everyone who participated in making this fundraiser so successful. We will carry our lanterns in April, in a walk to raise awareness of child abuse in Trenton. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

If you did not have an opportunity to get your lanterns, we will also be selling them again next year!

- Please register for the "Know and Tell" Workshop which is being held at Headquarters on March 25th from 10:00 - 12:00pm.
- NJCA will be conducting this workshop, and you will be educated if you are in a situation that may be suspicious, you will be able to take the necessary steps to help a child.
- Seating is limited. Please contact this Chair at [shoemaker@njsfwc.org](mailto:shoemaker@njsfwc.org) if you would like to attend.

**SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Lobster Shanty Basket Fundraiser**

**More information to follow in next month's ALMANAC!**

**WEBMASTER****webmaster@njsfwc.org****Denise Hosier****Thanks for entering our website contest!**

Judging is taking place the first two weeks of March. All the entries are fantastic, and it's a tough job choosing the ones deserving of awards at Convention. You should all be very proud of what you've accomplished in getting your club's message online!

**About mobile websites**

According to Google, about 60% of web users are now browsing on their phones or tablets (mostly phones), compared to 40% for desktop browsers. Most of the modern website design platforms like WordPress, Wix, Weebly, and others, automatically create a mobile version of your website. It just takes a few minutes to look over the mobile site and tweak it. You can make changes to the mobile site that don't appear on the main, computer-oriented site. So take a look and update your mobile site.

**If you don't have a website or web page...**

Why not email webmaster@njsfwc.org for information on how to start a website? She would be happy to create a page with basic information for you, or even design a complete website. All you need to do is gather some information and pictures.

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**DAY OF SERVICE****hrycenko@njsfwc.org****Linda Hrycenko**

A little (or a lot) of snow can't hold the women of the NJSFWC down. Our Day of Service 2025 supporting the Center for Family Services was a success! Despite the challenges brought about by the storm, your District Chairmen were able to adjust plans and collect our donations at our eight sites. In spite of the storm, we were able to support those individuals experiencing difficult times.

We are all separate parts, but we work wonderfully as a whole. Each club made this a memorable day of service by working together on projects meaningful to their club. Choosing to donate items for new expectant parents learning parenting skills, young adults needing a safe place to stay, and/or victims of domestic violence resonated with our membership. 76 clubs donated 11,368 items valued at \$55,993 to the Center for Family Services. We were only able to make this possible with your generosity.

This Chairman would like to thank the District Chairmen, DVPs, committees and individual club members for their donations, their help and their support. We spent many hours working together for a successful NJSFWC Day of Service 2025 supporting The Center for Family Services. Isn't it amazing what we women can do! If you would like to share your thoughts or comments, please email this chairman at hrycenko@njsfwc.org

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**PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS**

At the annual meeting, the general membership lacked a quorum and was unable to conduct its elections. The club's bylaws provide that officers serve "until their successors are elected". The Chair declared the meeting adjourned and announced that the current board members would serve until the next meeting. The election should then be rescheduled as soon as possible at an adjourned meeting, at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose of finishing the election.