

In the September 2025 issue >>

- Meet the LEADS Candidate
- Want to be a Board Member?
- Headquarters Open House
- Holiday Stocking Information
- Fall Conference information
- State Dates



Lobster Shanty Basket Raffle Luncheon: L/R Marie Sullivan, President Barbara McCloskey and SSP Chairman April Shoemaker



ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC



Welcome...

September is finally here, and I am sure many of you were busy updating your calendars, making plans, and getting ready for a busy fall season. I hope you also took time to enjoy your members and hold some summer social events.

A huge thank you again to Vivien Finn, Convention Chairman and Carole Thompson, Credentials and Registration Chairman and their committees for all their hard work to make our convention, held in May such a success. Plans are already underway for the 2026 convention, also to be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

- ❖ Congratulations to our **LEADS candidate, Heather Zises**, who represented NJSFWC at the GFWC Convention, held back in June in Atlanta. Look for her experience in this issue of the ALMANAC.
- ❖ **The report forms** and the instructions have also been updated. The membership categories for judging have been changed, after we reevaluated how many members clubs reported in their Yearbook Data Forms: 4-30, 31-50 and 51+. Please consider writing about your club projects and fundraisers.
- ❖ The summer fundraiser at the **Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant was sold out again!** Thank you to all who donated baskets, attended and helped us raise funds for our Special State project, New Jersey Children's Alliance. Thank you to SSP Chairman April Shoemaker and Headquarters Chairman Adrienne Fowler and their committees, for making this event such a success.
- ❖ The **State Fall Conference** will be at a new location this year. Please join us at the Lobster Shanty located in Pt. Pleasant. Yes, the same location as our summer fundraiser! Chairman Tina Ree and her committee have been working hard to make this a great event and there will be rooms available near the hotel if you wish to come down Sunday and stay overnight. Look for the information in this ALMANAC and on the

NJSFWC website. The registration deadline for the conference is September 26, 2025.

- ❖ NJSFWC board members spent a lot of time creating the articles that are included in this and all the monthly ALMANACs. Please encourage your members to take some time to review the information and materials. ALL a benefit of Membership!

Don't forget to sign up for the weekly eConnection, to stay up to date on all events and activities, including a monthly 'link' to the ALMANAC, which will always be available on the NJSFWC website.

In addition, both the **NJSFWC and GFWC websites** contain extensive and valuable information and materials, all a benefit of membership to you as members. Please take some time to view what is available on the websites and be sure to share the information with your members!

This President is looking forward over the next year, to continue visiting many clubs, 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

Table of Contents

Executive Committee Articles.....	Page 2
District Vice Presidents	Page 4
Community Service Program.....	Page 10
Standing Committee.....	Page 14

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

We've talked in previous ALMANAC issues of the importance of communication in leadership. Here's an example of how one club in the Palisades District lets its members know what's happening in their club and in Federation:

The **Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** encourages leadership and participation in activities through strong communication with its members who are encouraged to express opinions and offer suggestions at meetings. They have a monthly newsletter and, via email, distribute information to all members that comes from the NJSFWC e-Connection, ALMANAC, and GFWC News and Notes.

To help keep track of what the club is doing, members are each given a copy of every meeting agenda and have been instructed on proper meeting procedures. Members are encouraged to take on responsibilities within the club; they use Sign-Up Genius to schedule volunteers for projects.

Standing Rules were established by the club for the first time during their Bylaws review. This very active club has 25 members and recently celebrated their 35th Anniversary of Federation. They routinely are featured in the local weekly newspaper and even had a feature in a local magazine! Kudos to the ladies!

LEADS Impressions – Heather Zises

As Communications Chairman, Webmaster, and former Bulletin Editor for the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, I've proudly served my local club for the past five years. Being selected as a LEADS delegate for my state was an incredible honor and a chance to deepen my involvement with both NJSFWC and GFWC. I'm especially grateful to past WCUM presidents Vivien Finn and Trautie Becker for supporting my leadership journey.

LEADS was filled with meaningful connections. Meeting clubwomen from other states and countries who share similar goals and values was truly inspiring. The night before the seminar, we kicked things off with a lively ice cream social in International President Suellen Brazil's suite. I quickly bonded with Misty Nichols (NY) and Sam Pham (NH), and when Stacey Sollisch (NM) joined us, we joked that we formed the "NEWS" team—representing all the "New" states!

This year's theme centered on a kaleidoscope—many distinct parts coming together as a vibrant whole. Led by Ann Landis and her dynamic team, the program explored the multifaceted nature of leadership and how to foster environments where ideas thrive. Icebreakers like the "shoe size match" (shoutout to Annmarie Mullen from RI as my fellow size 8!) led to breakout sessions on public speaking, empathetic listening, conflict resolution, time management, wellness, and articulating our "why."

Our graduation was led by the GFWC officers and President Brazil, who presented each of us with a certificate and a fabulous sash to wear during the convention.

I returned from Atlanta with cherished memories and lasting friendships. Soon after, I began receiving postcards from fellow delegates—simple, heartfelt notes that reminded me of childhood pen pals. I sent my own in return, inspired by the generosity of spirit and the enduring message of Mary Stewart's Collect.

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

As Chairman of Report Writing for NJSFWC, one of this Officer's responsibilities is to promote Report Writing. Although she realizes report writing can be extensive, tedious and wearisome, the end results are much more than winning an award. Every club's year-end report reveals the tremendous work our members achieve each year. That work represents the heartbeat of our organization. That service to our communities, our state and the world is much more than an achievement. Each and every time our clubs report, their work uncovers the needs of children, women and men who have been given something to make their journey easier.

NJSFWC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (continued)

Every Chairman, who receives a single report from a single club and when that club explains the project through a short narrative, is thrilled and energized to share that project. The projects are shared at district councils, are listed on the website, illustrated with the Chairman's ALMANAC articles and are communicated throughout the year at all kinds of NJSFWC functions. To put it simply, it is the glue that holds our members together from Cape May to Sparta, and every club in between!

September is a perfect month to begin the process. Gather all the projects you have done from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Review your club minutes, your project reports, and even your newsletters. The year-end report packet is now on the website and has been mailed to all clubs. Have questions? Email this Officer at sienkielewski@njsfwc.org or email any Chairman who can help you with specific questions dealing with that area.

This month we will be having Zoom/In-person workshops (your choice) that will deal with specific areas. The dates are September 16 (10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.), September 23 (10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.), and September 23 (7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Each session will deal with a specific program. Further information for sign-up and specific programs will be on the website and on e-Connection. You will need to send an email to sienkielewski@njsfwc.org for the link.

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

Fall is a great recruitment time and everywhere you go is a potential recruitment opportunity. New members are the lifeline of every organization. Remember, every event you sponsor, or attend is a potential recruitment event. Whether you are at a club run event, a family party, the supermarket, or at a doctor's appointment, you will meet possible club members. If you wear your club shirt, NJSFWC polo shirt, GFWC shirt, Special State Project Pin, club pin, membership pin or President's pin; any of these items may pique the interest of someone.

If you work, ask a co-worker who has expressed an interest in a project you are working on to a club meeting. Are you a member of another organization or do you sit on a township committee? You may find a prospective member when working in collaboration with someone that is already involved in community service. Discuss projects that your club sponsors and invite that person to a club meeting. Share your enthusiasm you have for your club.

We all have friends, neighbors, relatives, former members and friends of friends. Talk to any and all of these people about your club, events and projects. Invite someone each month to a club meeting.

Teachers, administrators and parents of students who have benefited from or participated in club sponsored events, programs or scholarships; are potential members. If their children have benefited from one of your projects, they may be interested in seeing what your club is all about. Invite some of these parents or teachers to your next club meeting.

Do you know the number one reason stated when asked of new members, "Why they did not join sooner?" Their answer is "No one asked me". Don't just assume that any of the suggested people talked about here are not interested. A simple invitation may surprise you and may get you some new members. **Recruit, recruit, recruit!**

Also, there is a **NJSFWC MEMBERSHIP GRANT** which could help your club with recruitment. The Grant is \$100. Consider applying for the grant by filling out the form found on the NJSFWC Website under Materials, Membership and sending it to NJSFWC Headquarters by October 1st. Two clubs per Membership Category will be selected and presented the grant at the State Fall Conference. (New Membership Categories are 4-30, 31-50, and 51+)

NJSFWC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**levy@njsfwc.org****Nancy Levy****Federation Birthday Cards**

Did you know that if your club has a member who is turning 90 or older, they can receive a birthday card from the Federation? Contact Nancy Levy, the NJSFWC Corresponding Secretary, at levy@njsfwc.org with the name of the member, how many years young she is, her birthday date (month and day), and the address where you'd like the card mailed. You can also call or text Nancy at 973-476-7475 with the information.

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

Hope you had a fabulous summer! Welcome to a new club year and thanks to all the clubs for embracing the new Bylaw by submitting your Club Dues along with the Yearbook Data Form (Blue Sheet) for May 1st.

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

- The Charitable Registration Application Form for 2026, which is due September 30, 2025; and the cost is \$15.00.
- The Continuing Funds Form for 2026 which is due April 1, 2026 along with the Explanation of the Continuing Funds.
- Girls' Career Institute Reservation Form.

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 this Treasurer at 732-522-1314 or email at carbley@njsfwc.org.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY**cibelli@njsfwc.org****Debbie Cibelli****IRS 990 Tax Filing Forms**

Welcome back from summer. If your club falls under the NJSFWC umbrella, as a 501(c) (3), your club is responsible for filing a 990-form required by the IRS.

Thank you to those clubs that have already submitted their 990 forms. For those who have not, you still have time, however you must file by November 15th. All club filing confirmations must be sent to this Officer by that date.

This form is for tax-exempt organizations with gross receipts of less than \$50,000 per year. Clubs that fail to file for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Revocation of the club's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively missed year. In order to avoid spending extra money and time to be reinstated, do not miss the deadline.

Once you have filed (and most can do so electronically), you will receive a confirmation that states "You have successfully filed your 990". Please remember to take a screen shot by pressing "Print Screen" on your computer. If your Club's name does not appear on the confirmation, please make sure to hand write your club's name on that confirmation. All confirmations have to be sent to this officer, Debbie Cibelli, Financial Secretary, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick NJ 08901 or emailed to cibelli@njsfwc.org.

Valuable tips and explanation of the different Financial Forms that need to be filed, can be found on the njsfwc.org website. Click on Materials at the top and then choose Treasurer & Financial Information and Forms.

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

The women of the College District have boundless energy to fulfill our purpose as we begin meeting again after a restful summer: Together in Service, United in Friendship

Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook will start their year with a "Welcome Back Luncheon" sponsored by the Executive Board.

Branchburg Woman's Club will have a Potluck Supper at their September meeting and take part in the Branchburg Country Fair with a food drive, jewelry sale, basket raffle and 50/50.

Bridgewater Woman's Club will learn how to prepare plants for winter with Roman Fabian of Leonard Buck Gardens.

COLLEGE DISTRICT (continued)

Cedar Wood Woman's Club will be preparing Holiday Stockings for our troops.

Woman's Club of Cranbury will take part in Cranbury Day selling donated jewelry to raise funds. They will be collecting supplies for Preschool and HeadStart teachers.

Flemington Woman's Club will start their year off with a potluck luncheon at their club house.

Franklin Woman's Club will be collecting feminine hygiene products for CASA and food for the Rutgers Student Food Pantry.

Friday Club Hightstown will have a speaker on "The Importance of Memory."

Greater Brunswick Area Woman's Club will be making blankets for CASA and doing road cleanup in September.

Hightstown Woman's Club will open their year with a Fall Luncheon at Perkins Restaurant.

Holland Township Woman's Club will hold an Ice Cream Social Fundraiser to support scholarships and their local food pantry.

Princeton Area Woman's Club will take part in the Alzheimer's Association" Walk to End Alzheimer's."

Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will team up with their local American Legion Auxiliary to produce 40+ stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking.

Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township will kick off the new year with a "Welcome Back Lunch" and collect for Operation Holiday Stocking.

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

The summer was very busy for the Garden District Clubs.

Woman's Club of Edgewater Park supported the Holman Run for Homeless Veterans fundraiser in July and supported their town's National Night Out in August.

Gloucester County Women's Club collected and filled 96 backpacks for local schools, collected party supplies for a Girl Scout troop to make children's birthdays special, and items for chemo snack bags to go to The Unforgotten Haven.

The Haddon Fortnightly ended their club year with a luncheon, an Art Show, and hosted the GCI Orientation. They are filling their calendar with special events for the new club year.

The Haddon Fortnightly EMD had a float in the Haddonfield 4th of July Parade. Their theme was "Endangered Species" with members dressed as Monarch Butterflies, Pandas, Rhinoceros' and such, enjoyed a picnic at a member's home, and continued their monthly sandwich deliveries to the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden.

Marlton Woman's Club, Inc.'s members walked in Evesham's 4th of July Parade, had CPR training, continued with their book club and walking groups, shopped for the holiday stockings, and prepared for their Fall Bingo.

Woman's Club of Merchantville enjoyed dining on a cruise on the River Lady in Toms River. This fundraiser supported Camp No Worries for children with cancer and their siblings and Camp Fatima which provides a camping experience for handicapped children and young adults. The club held their annual picnic in August.

The Woman's League of Mount Holly's "Sisterhood of Sewers" worked on the Holiday Stocking project and continued to have Bingos at a local rehabilitation Center. Members also crocheted *Snowman Heads* for their Wish Tree at the local library with a goal of 400.

GARDEN DISTRICT (continued)

The Woman's Club of Pitman held a profitable hoagie sale in May raising \$1,006. The club held workshops and two (2) socials over the summer.

GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede spent the summer getting ready for their Fall Fair at the Runnemede Senior Center on September 13th. Members enjoyed a Phillies vs Washington Nationals game at Citizens Bank Park on August 23rd.

Waterford Township Woman's Club encourage Waterford Township School teachers every year to apply for a donation from their club to use for a special project they may like to do for their school. One teacher asked for artwork supplies, and the paintings she did are now decorating the walls of the school

Woman's Club of Wenonah held their Farmers Market monthly in July and August and weekly in September, and held their annual Porch Party for existing and potential members.

West Deptford Junior Women's Club participated in the Music and Market series at their local Community Center and once again selling double walled, Stanley-style etched tumblers saying "Real Housewives of West Deptford". On July 23rd, they held a Superhero Themed Ice Cream Social at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Woman's Club of West Deptford's Helping Hands, Helping Hearts project with members volunteering at the West Deptford Elementary Schools has been invited back by the Superintendent and the Principals. A group of 72 members and their families attended a Phillies game.

Woman's Club of Woodstown and their Borough Council organized the Annual Memorial Day celebration again this year. This year the club added an additional scholarship – STEM plus Art, Literature, and Music giving two (2) \$1,200 scholarships.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICTjeisi@njsfwc.org**Karen Jeisi**

Long Valley Woman's Club: In July, participated in the Long Valley community night out with flyers, club magnets, and tattoos for kids. Collecting plastic for a TREX bench and looking forward to hosting the September Highlands Council.

Woman's Club of Newton: Beginning in September, collecting items for Operation Holiday Stocking. In October, gathering food for Thanksgiving meals for needy families.

Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills: Held a successful Tricky Tray fundraiser in July to benefit their education/scholarship fund. Also collected \$8,945 worth of coupons to Troop Support Our Troops.

Roxbury Woman's Club: In July, sponsored an outdoor line dancing event open to the community. In August, hosted a community-wide food drive for Roxbury Social Services food pantry. Planning for the Alzheimer's Walk on Sunday October 19, which Roxbury WC sponsors annually.

Junior Woman's Club of Sparta: Hosted the 50th annual Sparta Day event, raising over \$13,000 for local and national charities. Also hosted its 34th Safety Village Camp, a fun safety education program for children entering kindergarten.

Sparta Woman's Club: Held an end of year Tricky Tray/Silent Auction, donating funds raised to local charities. Planning for their Annual Game Day to be held on October 15.

Thursday Morning Club: In support of Children's Alliance, collecting new clothes in sizes 18 months to 14 and monetary donations for clothes for Deirdre's House. Planning for their major fundraiser, Le Bazar de Noel, to be held November 14 and 15.

Vernon Township Woman's' Club: In August, held their New Member Tea and participated in the National Night Out, displaying Children's Alliance lanterns and discussing the SSP with the community. In September, to raise awareness of

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

the club's contributions to the town, participating in a community road clean-up and taking a booth at the Vernon Twp Street Fair, sponsoring a photo contest.

Washington Woman's Club: Participated in the August National Night Out, with rock kits for children to make. In September, Holding its Annual tricky tray event, their major fundraiser. Preparing for their 100th Anniversary celebration to be held October 12.

LIBERTY DISTRICT**chambers@njsfwc.org****Susan Chambers (Interim)**

Woman's Club of Allwood presented three scholarships to Clifton High School, one of which is always awarded to a relative of a club member. They sent three delegates and one alternate to GCI; their member Jean Rudolph was a Swan housemother!

Woman's Club of Arlington held a reorganization meeting in June to evaluate the past club year and get feedback from members. They decided to become more involved with the Environmental Center in Lyndhurst, bring back the English High Tea for residents of Alaris nursing home, and continue to hold an Author Event as the major fundraiser. The club's EMD continues to support Women Rising to help women become self-sufficient.

The Woman's Club of Belleville, Inc., held a fish fry and 50/50 fundraiser where they sold 107 dinners. Their April Tricky Tray was their major fundraiser. 10 members enjoyed a Denim Day at Wendy's. The club presented three scholarships to local Senior girls. They'll be collecting supplies for a preschool program.

Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights celebrated their 70th Anniversary in May. They presented two scholarships to local high school graduates. During this month's Meet and Greet, the members will participate in gentle Olympics! They held a June luncheon at a restaurant to keep members active.

In the spring, the **Montclair Women's Club** enjoyed a guided walk in Montclair's Alonso F. Bonsal Wildlife Preserve. A board member, Kelly McDonald, is also a Rutgers Environmental Steward; she talked about the rich history of environmental activism and community involvement. The club is looking forward to going back for clean ups and pulling invasive species events.

Roseland Junior Woman's Club held an Easter Egg-travaganza for the kiddos by decorating the Bunny trail with flowers, bows and wooden cut-outs. Colored plastic eggs that contained candy were springled along the trail for children to pick up; special eggs had a "winner" sticker meaning they would win a chocolate bunny.

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair held a summer luncheon in July and will participate in Upper Montclair's Sidewalk Sale this month. They awarded two nursing scholarships to students at Montclair State University and Caldwell University. The club will again hold their successful Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show on November 1 and 2. Book discussions are ongoing.

The Woman's Club of Verona spent the summer analyzing the results of the membership survey given to all members. They've started to organize for their townwide garage sale and luminary project, their major fundraiser.

Liberty District Past Presidents will meet on October 23, 11:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair clubhouse. All Liberty District Past Presidents are welcome!

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

Book and Needle of Oradell will have their opening luncheon at Kilim restaurant celebrating the 110th year of their club's founding.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

Woman's Club of Carlstadt will have a speaker from the New Jersey Children's Alliance and hold a baby shower for their benefit.

Cresskill Woman's Club celebrated Edna Rizzo's 90th birthday with a fundraiser for New Jersey Children's Alliance at Bosfa restaurant.

Woman's Club of Dumont will attend the play "Beautiful" at the Bergen County Playhouse in Oradell.

Woman's Club of Englewood will hold a Fall Festival at their clubhouse with vendors and a DJ on September 20 & 21.

Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club held a successful garage sale.

Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights is busy planning their annual Driver Through Fish and Chips fundraiser.

The Woman's Club of Haworth will start the 2025-2026 club year with a luncheon at Tenaflly pizza.

Woman's Club of Lyndhurst will hold their first evening meeting on September 10th. The program will be Well Within Nurturing Mind, Body and Soul presented by CBH CARES.

North Arlington Woman's Club enjoyed Concerts in the Park and working on the Community Garden.

Norwood-Northvale Woman's Club is celebrating 50 years of service to Federation and their Community.

Woman's Club of Old Tappan will hold a fundraiser at Bosfa in Old Tappan every Wednesday of each month for the rest of the year.

Woman's Club of Paramus September program will include their GCI delegates who will speak about their experiences.

Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park took part in the Fourth of July parade and will have their Vacation Auction fundraiser on September 10th.

Woman's Club of Rutherford will hold their Annual Indoor/Outdoor Sale September 13/14.

The Woman's Club of Westwood held a Salad Supper over the summer and is working with a local Girl Scout troop to create a Positivity Garden.

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

Woman's Club of Allendale: The Club will begin the year with a New Year Kickoff Party; they will participate in Turn the Town Teal in support of Ovarian Awareness and have a booth at the town's Festival.

Montville Township Woman's Club: The Club will begin planning for their Fish-N-Chips fundraiser and continue collecting plastic tops.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club: The Club will start off a Welcome Back Fall Dinner for current and potential members; in addition, they will participate in National Night Out and distribute their Yearbook.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains: The Club had many summer gatherings leading up to a Welcome Back Brunch on a Saturday.

Woman's Club of Ramsey: The Club took part in many summer activities leading up to a Welcome Back Lunch in which they will sell Flower Power crafts and participate in the Apple Festival.

Ridgewood Woman's Club: This Club had many various summer activities while preparing for the new year.

RAMAPO DISTRICT (continued)

Saddle Brook Woman's Club: This Club has been working in support of the Federation Operation Holiday Stockings project, purchasing 25 stockings. They have created a sign-up for others to donate items needed for this event. In addition, they are working on plans for a Tricky Tray.

Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River: The Club will sponsor its first Community Blood Drive on 9/25. In addition, they will organize a Town-Wide Garage Sale on 9/25. For more information: usrwomensclub.org.

Woman's Club of West Milford Township.: This Club completed making blankets for Project Linus and napkin rings for tray favors for a local hospital. In addition, the Club will collect backpacks for children which will go to several faith-based food pantries.

SHORE DISTRICT**osborne@njsfwc.org****Karen Osborne**

Belmar Woman's Club is busy preparing for their Craft Fair in early October. They will also be participating in Operation Yellow Ribbon.

Brick Township Woman's Club had a pizza and pool party at their membership chairman's house. It is "Fall Fundraising" for Woman's Club of Brick Township. Members are busy making crafts for a booth at the Brick Craft Fair.

Woman's Club of Brielle is busy preparing crafts for Brielle Craft Fair at Brielle Day. There will be a Member Fall Luncheon at the Lobster Shanty.

Woman's Club of Colts Neck held their annual picnic for members, spouses, and guests at a local park and took part in National Night Out. They also held their annual Grandma Charlotte's Great American Pie Contest. They will be taking part in a 9/11 Memorial Service.

Woman's Club of Lacey held a Special Needs Adult Luau Dance Party and will be hosting a Superhero Dance Party for Special Needs Adults also.

Woman's Club of Middletown welcomes their new president, Kim Casey, after passing of long-time president, Barbara Mitchell. They are getting themselves organized to help acquaint her with her new position.

Past Presidents-Shore District is collecting socks for homeless veterans.

Woman's Club of Point Pleasant is preparing for a Flea Market and will be volunteering to take part in Mary's Place fundraising efforts.

Woman's Club of Spring Lake will be holding their 2nd annual upscale resale of gently used clothes and household treasures. They are collecting Gift Cards for Madonna House along with diapers, housewares, and clothing for women and children.

Stafford Township Woman's Club made contributions to an Eagle Scout for building a garden planting bed at the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities which is handicapped accessible. They are already giving thought to their participation in Performing Arts Day.

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 and had a board game, constructed by a member, for children to play. They ended their club year with Drum2Bfit and will start up in September with an appetizer/salad get together.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May**, at National Night Out, distributed club profiles, and information about luncheon at their September Meeting.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT (continued)

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** celebrated International Women's Day with a Happy Hour at a local restaurant. Their annual beach get together was held in August and the mahjong group continued to meet weekly. They issued "Thank You" posts on Facebook thanking local businesses for their support.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** donated juice boxes and snacks to the NJCA Child Advocacy Center. They held a Wine Bingo Fundraiser at a winery - attendees got a glass of wine and the winners received a winery gift certificate and tasting. Their kids' closet has clothing and filled backpacks for school kids.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** met socially twice over the summer at a local restaurant. The walking group and Unraveled Ladies continued through the summer. They participated in National Night Out. In September, they'll start alternating day and evening meetings to accommodate working members. Their 1st game day is September 17th.

The **Millville Woman's Club** will hold their very successful Meet and Greet and New Member Orientation at their September Meeting. They held a Thank-you Luncheon in June. Their reading group continued to meet over the summer.

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

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Kathleen Reddick
reddick@njsfwc.org

Hello September! The business world considers this the third quarter, but for us, this is the dawn of a new Club year. Start filling your days with creativity, friendship, and socialization.

Remember that "Cooking" is an "Art" and a "Culture." While we only accept certain categories of cakes, cookies, pies, jams, et.al, for Achievement Day, cooking anything for your club counts on your Annual Report in hours and descriptions. Count all hours you bake cookies or make covered dishes for events or donations. Organizing a cooking class in a studio together would be fun, or some members may have a treasured family recipe that requires instruction. Our Irish member held wonderful Scone making classes in another member's kitchen. Everyone who participated went home with a lovely basket of scones. Another club gathered together with a member's grandmother to knead dough together to make Polish pierogis. Make something new for your Book Club using seasonal ingredients. These gatherings not only ignite our creativity but also strengthen our connections.

Speaking of the Annual Reports, this is a great time to settle in and review all you did this year and want to include in your Annual Report and will be happy you did it now, come January. Remember that only the descriptions of projects count toward District or State Awards. If you only submit the statistics page, those hours will count; but you will never win "Best All Around" in the State or District Awards. Write a short description of your best projects. Make your description **POP** off the page and catch the reader's eye.

Every state submits **Ten Best Projects** from the Annual Reports to the GFWC. In the next five ALMANACs the State Chairmen will include two of the projects submitted, so you can get a feel for what your neighboring clubs are doing. You'll notice that they use an economy of words, but make their projects sound so interesting.

The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River's Arts and Culture Committee partnered with the Health and Wellness Committee to host a NeuroArt Session, led by one of their members. NeuroArt is a field that combines art, science, and technology to study how the arts can impact the brain, body, and behavior. After some mediation, members were guided through creating an 8x10 canvas art using organic, neuro-like lines and shapes. Members left relaxed and with a lovely piece of artwork. This is a great example of cooperative committees merging the power of mind, body and spirit through art.

The Woman's Club of Arlington decided that in addition to the annual scholarships that they award, they would include two new categories: Art and Culinary Scholarships. This is such an important initiative to promote and perpetuate the arts in general and that cooking and baking are often overlooked areas of the arts, but require unique artistic abilities.

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

State Achievement Day in Atlantic City: There were 267 entries from all eight districts. This Chairman is so proud to announce that Nancy Lynn Schwartz, a member of the Woman's Club of Marlton in the Garden District, won Second Place in the Natural Wonders Photography category at the GFWC Convention in Atlanta. This should motivate us all to take more photos.

As September begins, let's embrace the magic that accompanies change and new beginnings. This harvest season holds endless creative opportunities waiting for us to explore. Here's to a vibrant new club year filled with inspiration, creativity, and camaraderie!

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Ann Ribinsky Brown
brown@njsfwc.org

Welcome back to a new, exciting club year, one of service and friendship. This Chairman hopes you have started thinking about your acts for Arts Performing Day. This month you are encouraged to sponsor a student creative writing contest. It takes a little planning, but the quality of today's students' writing will amaze you. All the specifics and rules for a contest are in the Supplement and can be found on our website.

Several clubs did an outstanding job with these contests. The 61 members of the Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River celebrated their club's signature program now in its 38th year, an Essay and Poetry contest for grades K -8. For two days, six judges spent over 50 hours reading through the 242 submissions based on the prompt, "What memory do you have that still makes you laugh to this day?" The ten top winners and their families, school administrators and teachers were invited to attend their December meeting where each winner read his/her entry and was presented a Certificate from the Club along with \$50. Each winner's name and submission title was etched onto school plaques, keeping their legacy as an inspiration for future creative writers.

Members of the Woman's Club of Bellville sponsored a district poetry contest in November. Initially the Chairman contacted the Superintendent of Schools for permission. Directions were sent out electronically to five elementary, one middle and one parochial school for grades 4,5,6 and 7. One hundred and ten (110) entries were received electronically for judging this year's theme "What Does Climate Change Mean to Me." Eight members volunteered 95 hours judging and preparing certificates for the 12 winners. Letters were sent to winners, parents and teachers inviting them to a December celebration. Sixty students, parents, guests and members attended. Each of the winners read his/her poem to the audience. All winners received cash prizes totaling \$300 from the club. Additional expenses for certificates, printing, postage, and refreshments were \$100. First-place poems were submitted to the NJSFWC Youth Poetry Contest and both won first place.

This Chairman encourages your club to start now, and plan with the schools in your District to have a Student Writing Contest.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Dawn Pogosaew
pogosaew@njsfwc.org

**Operation Holiday Stocking drop off dates to Headquarters will be Tuesday October 28th,
Saturday, November 1st, – Times for the drop off are 9am to 12 noon.**

The New Jersey Mission of Honor is an organization that helps to locate and identify unclaimed American Veterans' remains. Throughout the state, funeral homes, hospitals, and veterans' homes work together to identify unclaimed remains. With the help of the Department of Military Veterans Affairs, they verify the Veterans Military Service that will ensure that the Veteran is provided with Military Funeral Honors. They will also make an effort to reunite the Veterans remains with their family members. They ensure that any unclaimed or abandoned Veterans remains are laid to rest with honor and respect. To date they have laid to rest 670 American Veterans some of them remaining unclaimed for over 50 years.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

Last year, the Woman's Club of Norwood-Northvale helped to honor and bury the unclaimed remains of 5 Veterans with their donation of \$1,500 to the NJ Mission of Honor for Remains of American Veterans. With their donation, the Veterans were placed in a wooden urn with the branch of service insignia and buried with full honors at the William Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Joan Murdock
murdock@njsfwc.org

Information on the future of Spelling Bees. A decision was made by the State Executive Committee not to sponsor any District and State Spelling Bees. Any individual clubs who would like to continue to hold a bee can do so. Information on holding a club bee will be located on the NJSFWC website, under Education and Libraries, Materials, Spelling Bee in September. *If you have any questions please e-mail this Chairman.*

Something New!! Let's have some fun with the Education and Libraries Departments' new ***Between the Pages*** book club. This is a book club just for NJSFWC members and clubs! It will be a fun way for your club's book club or individual club members to read, recommend and receive a certificate for their participation.

There are two categories
 Club Book Club
 Individual Members

Here are the rules:

1. Register with this Chairman by sending your name, name of club and District as an individual member **or** register your own club's Book Club with the Book Club's name, name of club and District, as a group to this State Education and Libraries Chairman, Joan Murdock at murdock@njsfwc.org.
2. Pick your own book, from whatever genre you like.
3. Every month submit to the State Education and Libraries Chairman, Joan Murdock at murdock@njsfwc.org the Title, Author of the book and a short 50 word review of the books you have read that month. Use the ***Between the Pages*** reporting form found in this ALMANAC and on the website. Club Book Clubs only need to send in one form for each book the club reads.
4. Certificates will be awarded at your DISTRICT Spring Councils to the club Book Club and to those registered as individual members. The categories for certificates are:
 - Category 1: 1-10 books read
 - Category 2: 11-20 books read
 - Category 3: 21 and over books read
5. The ***Between the Pages Club*** reading time frame will begin September 15, 2025 and go through March 15, 2026.
6. Your review may be selected to be included in one of the Education and Libraries ALMANAC article.
7. **This is not part of GFWC ESO program.**

Creative Projects;

At this past Convention the ten most creative projects were announced. This chairman would like to share two of the ten projects in Education and Libraries.

Did you ever hear about "Look for a Book"? This is a very successful project of the Gloucester County Women's Club. The members obtain used children's books from their Library and garage sales. They also purchase new books. The books are put into plastic sealable storage bags with a flyer informing the finder it is a "hidden book project" from the Women's Club. The packets are then placed on local park benches, and nearby playground equipment during good weather from May to October. The flyer explains the project and gives instructions for the finder which is... Once you find and read the book then re-hide it for someone else to find. The project is advertised on the club website, town newspaper and flyers around the town. This year club members placed 70 books, spent 20 hours and \$60 in kind for the project

The Woman's Club of Lacey sponsors a third-grade poster contest at each of the townships four elementary schools. Students create a poster depicting a book they have enjoyed during the year, then draw a favorite part of the book. Each school's principal and third grade teachers select 5 posters from their school to submit to the contest. At the clubs March

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

meeting, club members vote by ballot for the best poster from each school. Barnes and Nobles Gift Cards are purchased by the club for the top three winners. These awards are given during a special presentation to the winning student.

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Dorothy Bernice
bernice@njsfwc.org

Although there are some who think the older generation may not know a great deal about caring for our environment, that certainly isn't the case with the members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, especially our NJSFWC club members.

The Peapack-Gladstone Women's Club celebrated Earth Day with the residents of Matthey House which provides care and education for children and adults with long term disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and other special needs. The club partnered with the local library and a horticultural therapist for a special day at the facility. Residents were put into three groups. Each group worked to create a safe forest by bringing moss, stones, bark, leaves, sticks, a recording of forest sounds and chimes to help guide the residents through the "forest". A librarian read the story, "Thank you Earth" through a Zoom portal that was projected on a screen. The club members planted seeds in pots with the residents so they could grow on their window sills and then plant outside in their garden.

The members of the Woman's Club of Little Silver volunteer with Save Coastal Wildlife. Members turn out at night to tag and count the mating horseshoe crabs along the shores of Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays. The club has been involved with this since 2009 and were among the group that noted that some crabs had blood samples taken (for use in stopping seizures in humans) and those crabs no longer mated or swam out to sea. This could only have been noted by volunteers who had come out for years noting the difference in the crabs they had previously tagged. Having a yearly project has its rewards.

Many clubs collect plastic bags which are made into benches. But the Washington Woman's Club (Highlands District) not only collected enough plastic for the memorial bench but bought a second bench with the help of a neighboring club. The second bench was raffled off at their annual basket auction. Members dropped off boxes located all over town. They continually spoke to the store owners and thanked them for allowing them to collect the plastic. Communication with those who are partnering with you is very important.

Before winter sets in a trip to Deep Cut Gardens in Middletown NJ is a wonderful way to spend time admiring beautifully designed flower beds or a hot house of cactus from all over the world. You can take a picnic lunch. This is a free admission garden. You can carpool. Also, if someone loves history have them look up the history of this lovely spot.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Katie Chambers
chambers2@njsfwc.org

As the Fall season gets underway, don't forget to keep tracking your club members' exercise hours for the Let's Get Moving Challenge! The tracking form for 2025 can be found on the NJSFWC website "Health & Wellness" section in "Materials."

And please keep in mind some of the GFWC affiliate organizations when planning your club activities this year. Here's one: **Shot@Life** is a United Nations Foundation campaign that works to ensure everyone in the world has access to lifesaving vaccines and all children have a shot at life. Shot@Life mobilizes public and private resources for the global immunization work of UNICEF, World Health Organization, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Currently, GFWC is partnering with Shot@Life to provide lifesaving measles vaccines to children worldwide. By raising \$80,000 over two years, clubwomen will help protect 16,000 children from measles. Learn more about this in the "Health & Wellness" section in "Materials" on the NJSFWC website.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Over the next few months, this chairman will share some of last year's Top 10 Most Creative Projects to inspire your own club's activities! Here are two:

In conjunction with their Arts & Culture Committee, the Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River hosted a NeuroArt session. NeuroArt combines art, science, and technology to study how the arts impact the brain, body, and behavior. After a brief meditation, the instructor guided participants through creating an 8 x 10 canvas painting with organic, neuron-like lines and shapes. Members left relaxed and with a lovely piece of art!

After receiving so much positive feedback on their "Friendsgiving" event, the Woman's Club of Paramus decided to arrange more open time to foster friendships – especially important in a club of larger size. "Me Time" is a program that encouraged members to come out and bring a "keep your hands busy" activity, like crocheting, vision boards, games, and puzzles. There is no cost nor obligation – just the desire to be creative while fostering friendship. In the summer, they gathered in a member's beautiful backyard and painted inspirational rocks for the walking group to place in the park later. Positive energy and connection enhance personal and group wellness.

September's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving: Back pain can be a scourge at any age. Walking is a great and simple way to alleviate it... while getting your cardio and mobility workout done in the process! Consumer Reports recently shared that adults who recently recovered from back pain and walked regularly went more than twice as long without a flare-up than others!

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

dimatties@njsfwc.org

Marie DiMatties

GFWC Advocates for Children Week, is October 24-30. It's never too soon to begin planning. If you are looking for project ideas, be sure to look through the Advocates for Children Supplement, on the NJSFWC website. You can also go to the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children page on the GFWC website.

Here are a few Advocates for Children Projects from 2024:

The Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton sponsored a Snack Attack Project during Advocates for Children Week. They held a community/club collection of individually wrapped snacks. They then divided and delivered 103 boxes of snacks to five local school offices for distribution to the students. Members spent 36 hours and \$515 in-kind donations.

The Princeton Area Woman's Club supported HomeFront's backpack drive by filling 25 backpacks with over 20 items according to a list provided by HomeFront. The backpacks were tailored to an individual child's color and character preferences. They included folders, binders, dry erase markers, rulers, calculators and geometry kits for older students. Clubwomen spent 25 hours and \$2,000 in kind donations on this project.

Sparta Woman's Club learned of a 501©(3) the Weekend Bag Program created by three teenage sisters. The *Weekend Bag Program* is designed to anonymously provide students in need, with a supply of food and hygiene necessities for use

over the weekend. The organization provides a vital service to over 20 Sussex County schools on a weekly basis during the school year. In addition to a monetary donation of \$1,571, individual members donated shelf stable items valued In-Kind at \$200. Members also assisted in preparing Weekend Bags and supported the organization through countless volunteer hours.

BYLAWS

fosdick@njsfwc.org

Susan Fosdick

On May 5, 2025, this Chairman presented six Proposed Amendments to the NJSFWC Bylaws at its Annual Convention. All Club Presidents received a copy of the Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws with the CALL to Convention with ample time for the Delegates to study them. A two-thirds vote of those present and voting passed the Proposed Amendments, and they were adopted.

BYLAWS (continued)

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. After receiving the new 2025-2026 NJSFWC Yearbook, please review the Bylaws and Standing Rules. Every club may submit proposed amendments to the NJSFWC Bylaws Committee by October 15th. Our Committee looks forward to reviewing all proposals that are submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS

rothstein@njsfwc.org

Shelley Rothstein

Thank you to all the clubs that submitted reports on their 2024 Communications activities! Many of you worked on interesting and unique projects throughout the year to promote your organization. This month and next, this Chairman will share ten of the most interesting communications initiatives from 2024, so you can find ideas and inspiration for your next project. Here are the first five!

1. Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills: A club member created Club bookmarks which included a QR code, NJSFWC and GFWC logos and a website link. The bookmarks were distributed at a town event.
2. Pines Lake Woman's Club held their 20th Annual Turkey Drive in partnership with the Community Food Bank of NJ. They networked with numerous community organizations to promote the drive and arrange for extra volunteers. Extensive social media was used by the club, as well as town organizations, to advertise the collection.
3. Woman's Club of Spring Lake has begun utilizing the TeamReach app to relay information to its members. The app shows all events for the upcoming 6 months and members can text, post photos and provide feedback on club activities.
4. GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede hosted a series of environmental lectures which are open to the public. The events are promoted in the local press and on social media. Partnership with three local town Green Teams increased the visibility of the event.
5. Woman's Club of Paramus participated in the GFWC Day of Service by holding a food drive. To promote the collection, they gained approval from the Board of Education of Paramus to have the event flyer distributed via mass email to all the parents of school aged children in town.

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM

battaglia@njsfwc.org

Jean Battaglia

As your club plans on how to wrap up the year, look back on projects you started after January 1, 2024, and will have completed by December 31, 2025, and consider submitting them for a Community Impact Award. Projects described in 2024 Year-end Reports, such as Days for Girls, He'arts Creative, partnerships with New Jersey Mission of Honor or the Save Coastal Wildlife Foundation or Earth Day at Matheny House, a run to benefit a local cause, or sponsoring a Yard of the Month are a few examples. Each club likely has something to submit. Even small projects can make a significant impact.

Community Impact is GFWC's longest standing project, introduced in 1949 as the "Build a Better Community Contest." The first-place state entry will receive a monetary award and will be submitted for a GFWC award. The rules and application form is on the NJSFWC website under Materials, Community Impact. Community Connection Initiatives with suggestions for projects can be found in the GFWC Manual under each of the Special Program Areas. **Important** – Entries must be received by the State Chairman by February 15, 2026, to allow time for distribution for judging and mailing of the winning entry to GFWC. This is a change from the deadline published in the GFWC contest rules.

FALL CONFERENCE/PROGRAM ASSISTANCE**ree@njsfwc.org****Tina Ree**

As Fall approaches, so does Fall Conference. By now you all have started to send in your reservation forms that were given to your Club Presidents, after June Councils. It was also posted on the E-Connection in June.

The Lobster Shanty is the new venue for the Conference this year and it is always a sell out for the Summer Luncheon. The deadline to register is September 26, 2025. So, get those forms in!

We will be having great speakers; Dean Meghan Rehbein from Douglass Residential College and Lucy DelGaudio founder of Operation Sisterhood. The NJSFWC Historian will tell us about the President of NJSFWC at the time of the opening of Headquarters 60 years ago. Also, the awards from the GFWC Convention in June and Membership awards will be given out that day.

The President asks those coming to Fall Conference to please bring some toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc.) and feminine hygiene products with them. The items collected can be either from your club or yourself. The collection will be given to Lucy Del Gaudio from Operation Sisterhood and given to Female Veterans.

Hotel and dinner plans for those coming down the night before were on the E-Connection as well as given to your Club Presidents in August.

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT:**hill@njsfwc.org****Claire Hill****DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

The following club projects were submitted to GFWC within the GFWC Signature Project Program:

Hopatcong Woman's Club collected items for DASI Safe home clients. A Safe Home Shower was held and linens, new towels, comforters and pillows were donated. New bras, clothes socks and food were also donated.

Bridgewater Woman's Club worked with Safe and Sound in Somerset by donating gift cards. The club also made "Palm Cards" which included 3 hotline phone numbers for assistance for someone in a domestic violence situation. The cards were given to members to distribute to laundromats, beauty salons and restaurants.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains printed the Hotline numbers of domestic violence programs on a bookmark and laminated them. Please feel free to distribute the numbers.

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: (Continued)

The phone numbers are

Domestic Violence: 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

Teen Dating Violence: 1-886-331-9474

Human Trafficking: 1-855-363-6548

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE**lund@njsfwc.org****Ellen Lund**

We had another successful year for the Girls Career Institute. A total of 160 High School Juniors were chosen to attend GCI 2025. There was a staff of 18 consisting of the Director, Assistant Director, 14 Housemothers and two Nurses.

We started off with three Icebreakers, giving the Delegates a chance to begin to get to know each other. The Housemothers each had their meeting with their group and a skit topic was chosen. After dinner, the Delegates heard from three college students and were able to ask them questions. The night ended with Zumba.

We were very fortunate to have over 25 speakers for the Delegates to choose from for Monday and Tuesday Workshops. Various activities were offered including decoupage to make a flower vase, stenciling canvas bags, no sew blankets, vision boards, and sponge painting. Plus, on Monday many of the Delegates went swimming.

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE (continued)

Seventeen Delegates participated in the Talent Show. Over 20 Delegates joined the GCI Chorus. Seven skits were performed on Spirit night with a cake celebration afterwards. A big thank you to our Judges and Scorekeeper.

On our final day, seven Delegates from the Talent Show, the winning Skit, and the GCI Chorus performed for the Parents and friends in attendance. Lastly, President Barbara McCloskey spoke to the audience explaining NJSFWC, GFWC, and the founding of Douglas College.

Back at the Dorm there were lots of hugs and sad good-byes.

This Director wishes to thank all the Club members for your monetary and supply donations. They were greatly appreciated.

HEADQUARTERS

fowler@njsfwc.org

Adrienne Fowler

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) is one of only 7 states to have a brick and mortar club house. Of course, ours is located at 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

This Headquarters Chairman would like to remind you of some of the rules involved in using Headquarters for a club function. (A full list is posted on the refrigerator):

- Should your club wish to have a non-fundraising event at Headquarters, you may contact the office staff to make your request.
- Clubs may use the Headquarters once per year.
- It is the club's responsibility to bring in whatever supplies are needed, i.e. coffee, cups, water, etc.
- The club must also clean up afterwards and bring home their unused items including any food that they brought.
- Please remember to take home the garbage bags.
- You may NOT decorate the walls using tacks, tape or staples, or cause any damage.

A FIRE SAFETY PROCEDURE flyer is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen which will inform you of:

- Where the 3 fire exits are located
- Where the 5 fire extinguishers are located
- Where the First Aid kit is located

This Headquarters Chairman would like to remind you that our Headquarters is something to be proud of and therefore would appreciate it if you noticed that we are low on supplies, to please let her know.

Lastly, this Headquarters Chairman would also like to ask you to continue making your tax deductible donations to 1894 Society. Remember the 1894 Society fund helps offset any increase in the lease of Headquarters. This Headquarters Chair is happy to say that for a donation of \$60.00 or more you will receive a special S&H Green Stamp pin as a gift while supplies last.

HISTORIAN

quilici@njsfwc.org

Randi Quilici

As early as 1900, juvenile delinquency became a concern for the Federation, which supported the national movement to establish *juvenile courts*. The practice of placing young offenders alongside adult criminals in the same courtroom was widely criticized. As juvenile courts were established, clubs continued to study laws impacting children in jails and police stations during 1910-1911. Between 1941 and 1944, clubs reported the creation of community youth centers as a response to *juvenile delinquency*. From 1944 to 1947, The Woman's Club of Pitman donated land originally intended for a clubhouse to be used as a youth center for the community. The clubwomen of the Women's Community Club of Cape May also established the first fully equipped youth hostel. In 1959-1960, an Ocean County club contributed \$2,400 to furnish an addition to a *local youth center*.

HISTORIAN (continued)

Child labor, a significant issue in the early 20th century, was actively addressed by the Federation. In 1902-1904, the Federation advocated for laws to end widespread child labor abuses. Between 1904-1906, clubwomen worked to pass legislation that banned night work for boys in New Jersey's glass factories. By 1909-1911, the Federation endorsed broader laws to restrict child labor at night in all factories.

In 1913, Mrs. Howard Warren, the Federation President, was appointed by Governor Woodrow Wilson to the Board of Directors for the *State Home for Girls*. From its inception, the Federation focused on supporting state agencies and institutions. In 1960, a Junior Membership Department project raised \$34,545 to build and equip an athletic field at the *Trenton State Home for Girls*.

The Federation has a long-standing history of supporting White House Conferences on Youth, consistently participating with dedicated representation. During the 1950–1953 administration, a New Jersey student joined over 500 peers at the Fifth White House Conference on Youth to explore themes of responsible citizenship and personal well-being. In 1956, NJSFWC President Ruth P. Sanborn Burrill attended the conference and went on to serve as a member of the New Jersey Citizenship Committee for Public Education.

Today, we continue our commitment to youth by supporting our Special State Project: the New Jersey Children's Alliance. Their mission is to promote hope, healing, and justice for child abuse victims by strengthening Child Advocacy Centers throughout New Jersey.

Learn more and show your support at: <https://njsfwc.org/projects/special-state-project/>

Here are two of the Top Ten Projects for 2024.

1. The President of the GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford, which has 59 members, recently established a History Committee comprised of five members. Inspired by an ALMANAC article, the committee set out to make the process of digitizing club records both enjoyable and engaging.

With the participation of past Presidents and several members, the committee gathered records dating back to the club's founding in 1993. They digitized the documents while retaining only the essential hard copies. These hard copies are now securely stored in a newly purchased four-drawer cabinet at the Community Senior Center.

2. From 2022 to 2025, the government issued special quarters each year on May 4th, honoring remarkable women. The Long Valley Women's Club actively participated by collecting these quarters. Each month, a club member researched one of the featured women, wrote about her accomplishments in the club newsletter, and included an image of the corresponding quarter.

Their objectives were to create a display in the library showcasing a graph of the collected quarters for each honoree, and to use the funds to purchase children's books highlighting the achievements of as many women as possible. Members contributed quarters at meetings and encouraged friends and family to participate. Additionally, one member regularly checked with the township library to help locate these special quarters. To date, the club collected 100 quarters.

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

wisner@njsfwc.org

Jacqueline Wisner

As we return from summer break, let's recommit ourselves to a powerful goal: to strengthen advocacy and support for the state and national resolutions endorsed by our clubs, the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) and the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). This is a moment to act—and we have the tools and guidance to make meaningful progress.

One of the most effective ways to get involved is by enrolling in GFWC's **Legislative Action Center (LAC)**. Through this platform, you'll receive timely *Legislative Alerts*, stay updated on public policy issues aligned with GFWC's mission, and easily contact your elected officials. It's simple to register—just visit: <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/>.

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS (continued)

Next, commit to downloading and following the steps in the **Legislative Ladder**, an easy-to-follow, eight-step advocacy guide designed especially for club members. Points are earned for each step achieved. Steps include actions such as visiting a state or local representative, inviting a local decision-maker to speak at a club meeting or planning a campaign to support a current resolution. And clubs earning at least 35 points are eligible for a Certificate of Achievement and are considered for recognition at the state convention! A Club earns *25 points* simply by increasing their enrollment in the Legislative Action Center by 10% over the past year. The fillable form may be found on the GFWC website, Digital Library homepage <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/resources>

We're starting the year with some encouraging legislative news—and important calls to action:

1. The **Crime Victims Fund** continues to provide vital support services, including counseling, emergency shelter, hotlines, and crisis response for survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, and other crimes. The bipartisan **Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act** ensures this fund is replenished—and without increasing the federal deficit. But funding is running low. We urge all members to respond to the Legislative Alert sent on Tuesday, July 8 and advocate for continued support of this essential legislation.

2. Another crucial bipartisan bill, the **Kids Online Safety Act, (KOSA)**, would create a legal “**duty of care**” for social media platforms to protect vulnerable youth. This includes safeguarding children from content related to child exploitation, eating disorders, suicide, harassment, drug promotion, and harmful romanticization of abuse.

This legislation can make a difference in the lives of children—especially those who are marginalized or at greater risk. If you're registered in the LAC, please respond to this Legislative Alert.

Forward these alerts to your fellow club members to inspire action. Share updates during meetings. Use them as a springboard to grow your club's engagement and promote the importance of advocacy in every community we serve. And lastly, this Chairman is always available to lend support to your efforts, speak at your club or district meeting, respond to questions or provide ideas.

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

shoemaker@njsfwc.org

April Shoemaker

This Chairman is so grateful and appreciative of all the time donated as well as the wonderful baskets for the Special State Project event at the Lobster Shanty in August.

Our lantern project was very successful and there are a few more available if anyone would like to still purchase one through Headquarters. Please let this Chairman know about your purchase by emailing her at shoemaker@njsfwc.org.

Be on the lookout for a special state-wide project in October, as well as another 'fun'raiser event. Look for further information in the ALMANAC, at the September District Councils and on the NJSFWC Econnection.

WEBMASTER

webmaster@njsfwc.org

Denise Hosier

Why Facebook Alone Isn't Enough

While a Facebook page can be a useful tool for clubs to publicize their activities and reach some prospective members, it's not sufficient as a sole online presence. A website provides more control over both design and reach, and is essential for building a strong, sustainable online presence.

Here's why a Facebook page alone isn't enough:

1. **Limited Control:** Facebook dictates the design and layout of your page, limiting your ability to customize it for your needs. You have little control over how your information is displayed, how your content appears, and who sees your posts. Facebook's algorithms and rules constantly change, potentially impacting your visibility without notice.

WEBMASTER (continued)

2. **Limited Reach:** Facebook's algorithm determines which content is shown to users, and reach can be unpredictable. Even if your posts are public, only those that already "like" your page will see them unless you spend money for a sponsored post. Further, younger adults consider Facebook "old school," something their grandmothers use, and many twenty-somethings don't have Facebook accounts. A website allows you to reach a wider audience through search engines and other tools.

3. **Lack of Ownership:** You don't own the data on your Facebook page, and you have limited access to analytics and user information. A website allows you to collect valuable data about your audience and track your publicity efforts. This data can be used to improve your strategy and better understand your audience.

4. **Professionalism and Credibility:** A dedicated website lends more credibility to your club than a Facebook page alone. It provides a more professional image and demonstrates a commitment to reaching more prospective members and helping your club grow. A website allows you to showcase your members, events, and accomplishments in a more comprehensive and visually appealing way, and is available to anyone, not just those with Facebook accounts.

In conclusion, while a Facebook page is a valuable tool, it should be used in conjunction with a dedicated website to build a strong, sustainable, and professional online presence for your club. If you don't have a web page, email webmaster@njsfwc.org for information and help.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBSdyrsten@njsfwc.org**Roberta Dyrsten**

Alternate Meetings and Voting - While your club is reviewing and amending your Bylaws, consider inserting two new sections to **Article V Meetings**, to allow for Alternate Meeting and Voting formats. This wording is in the NJSFWC Bylaws and has been used by numerous clubs:

- **Alternate Meeting Format**
The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and Standing and Special Committees are authorized to meet by electronic communication media as long as the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate in the meeting. Sufficient notice must be given to enable a quorum to participate.
- **Alternate Voting Format**
At the discretion of the President, members may vote by electronic communication media in emergency situations. A report of any action taken via electronic communication media shall be verified and made a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

Report Writing Sessions- (Your choice for zoom or in-person)

September 16 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

September 23 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

September 23 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.

To register, contact Chris Sienkielewski via email: sienkielewski@njsfwc.org