

Season's Greetings from:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara A. McCloskey, President
Susan A. Chambers, President-elect,
First Vice President Chris Sienkielewski,
Patricia Dahl, Second Vice President
Recording Secretary, Jean Revis
Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Levy
Treasurer, Linda Carbley
Financial Secretary, Debbie Cibelli

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

Laurel Dobalo, College
Mary E. Schneider, Garden
Karen Jeisi, Highlands
Janet E. Drogo, Palisades
June Witty, Ramapo
Karen J. Osborne, Shore
Carol Speechley, Southern

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Kathleen Reddick, Arts & Culture
Ann Ribinsky-Brown, Arts Performing
Dawn N. Pogosaew, Civic Engagement
and Outreach
Joan Murdock, Education & Libraries
Dorothy L. Bernice, Environment
Katie Chambers, Health and Wellness

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Marie DiMatties, Advocates for Children
Susan Fosdick, Bylaws
Shelley Rothstein, Communications
Jean Battaglia, Community Impact
Vivien Finn, Convention
Carole Thompson, Credentials
and Registration
Tina Ree, Fall Conference/Program
Assistance
Claire J. Hill, GFWC Signature Project
Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness
and Prevention
Ellen Lund, Girls Career Institute
Adrienne Fowler, Headquarters
Randi Quilici, Historian
Claire Fairchild, Honors

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (continued)

Jacqueline Wisner, Legislation & Resolutions
Linda Hrycenko, Nominations and
Elections
April Shoemaker, Special State Project
Denise Hosier, Webmaster

APPOINTMENTS

Ann Quinn, Parliamentary Consultant to
the Board
Roberta Dyrsten, Parliamentary Consultant
to Clubs

In the December 2025 issue >>

- State Dates
- Treasurer's Workshop
- Carol J. Sas Award 2026
- Newsletter, Scrapbook, & Pressbook Contests
- Annual Convention Book Ad Form
- Friends of Convention
- SSP – Operation Duffle Bag
- NJSFWC Member's Recognition Form
- 1894 Society Donation Form



Open House L/R: 2nd VP Patricia Dahl; Pres. Barbara McCloskey; AADC Exec. Director Eileen Cotter; Financial Sec. Debbie Cibelli; Treasurer Linda Carbley



ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC



December Greetings...*Happy Holidays to you and your family!*

Holiday Greetings!

As this message was written prior to our Headquarters Open House celebrations, I want to thank all of you who attended, and to thank all of the members that have and will continue to support our Headquarters building and the 1894 Society.

There is still time to make a donation to the 1894 Society, by members and/or clubs.

- ❖ You can make a donation through the NJSFWC.org website or by sending a check to Headquarters.
- ❖ The replica S&H green stamp is still available for donations of \$60.00 or more.
- ❖ For those of you who have not had the opportunity to read the book, 'A Century of Challenge', the first 100 years, and read about all the amazing accomplishments our past presidents achieved, I encourage you to purchase a copy. The book is \$10.00 and available at Headquarters, and may encourage you to make a donation!
- ❖ Remember, this President has offered to match donations up to \$1,894.

The holiday stockings were picked up by Operation Jersey Cares, and will be on their way to soldiers around the world. Thank you to all the clubs who participated, and as soon as we have the total number of stockings donated, we will let you know.

Although we will not be holding an official Day of Service in January for Martin Luther King Jr Day, this President encourages you to think about a project revolving around food insecurity.

Many of our food pantries are in need, and what better way to help those families is with a food drive or volunteering at your local food bank.

As we enter this holiday season, we know club members are continuing to meet the needs in their communities, while preparing with their own family celebrations.

NJSFWC has the most generous and giving members, and this President is extremely proud and thankful of all the time, work and effort you devote to your clubs and your communities.

As we move into 2026, let's continue to make new history of our own.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all,

In Federation friendship,

Barbara

Together in Service, United in Friendship

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HEADQUARTERS OFFICE STAFF

njsfwc.hq@gmail.com

Nancy R. Faison

"Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out"

(by Robert Collier)

NJSFWC is one of only eight states that has a Headquarters building. The Headquarters office staff is essential to the success of NJSFWC. The staff works closely with the President and other Officers. This office is the hub of activity in communicating with the District Vice Presidents and their clubs.

The staff of three (two members generally working each day) is here to assist the members of the Federation, answering questions and investigating inquiries, from the multitude of clubs under the NJSFWC umbrella.

Our goal is to keep the Federation running smoothly by effectively handling a wide variety of tasks including but not limited to:

- ALMANAC printing and distribution
- Central point for receipt and distribution of all mail
- A key player in preparing for annual Convention
- Preparation of the annual Yearbook
- Receiving all payments for upcoming events
- Collecting and reconciling annual dues payments as well as processing all monies collected.

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We love hearing from our members and answering a myriad of questions.

NJSFWC PRESIDENT-ELECTchambers@njsfwc.org

Susan Chambers

Let's look at a few more of last year's Top Ten Leadership Projects as you prepare your Report Writing for 2025.

The **Woman's Club of Cranbury, Inc.** of the College District created a Procedure Book to document the club's standard events. The President recorded details of each step involved in each project completed that year so that planning in the future is simpler and stream-lined.

The **Haddon Fortnightly EMD of the Haddon Fortnightly** in the Garden District conducted a bylaws review to align with NJSFWC and GFWC Community Service Programs. Their membership was given a copy of the current bylaws and encouraged to make recommendations for change. The Chairman made a chart demonstrating where each program fell on the Report Writing Forms. The approved bylaw changes were to be published in the club yearbook that is distributed to all members.

The **GFWC Woman's League of Mount Holly** of the Garden District created a new leadership position designated "Chair Liaison" who provides support and mentors members who have stepped into new CSP/Committee Chairmen roles. Qualifications for this role include an extensive background as a CSP/Committee Chairman as well as knowledge of the workings of GFWC, NJSFWC and their club. This allows new Chairmen to ask questions and run ideas by a seasoned member who guides them with project selections and report writing.

The **Washington Woman's Club, Inc.** of the Highlands District created a Leadership Book. The President coordinated the effort including club procedures, club financial responsibilities, the history of their scholarship fund with copies of letters pertaining to it, how to promote and participate in GCI and any other pertinent information that would help future club leaders. She also purchased two NJSFWC hardcover books "From the Beginning: a Page of History" and "A Century of Challenge" that is available for all members to read and learn from.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a joyous, peaceful New Year!

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

February 1, 2026 is the deadline for sending in your Report Forms and Project Narratives to the State Chairmen of the following Community Service Programs (CSP):

- Arts and Culture
- Arts Performing
- Civic Engagement and Outreach
- Health and Wellness
- Advocates for Children
- Communications
- Fundraising
- GFWC Signature Project: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention
- Club and Women's History
- Legislation/Resolutions
- Membership
- Leadership
- Special State Project

You will probably find that many projects require more than just a statistical line to give a full picture of what your club has done for a particular activity. In order to best explain a project, you may attach **no more than two pages** for each Program area with detailed description of the projects that you wish to highlight. You can add as many projects that will fit on only 2 pages.

These project narratives do not need to be long, but it helps to explain how the project was planned and carried out. When writing the description for a project, you should include as much information as you can, and explain it to your club's advantage.

- Think about the who: Was it the whole club or a particular committee? Did you work with another community group?
- Think about the when: Did the project occur during a specific time of the year? Did you collect items throughout the year?
- Think about the why: Did your club have a specific reasoning for doing the project? Did you see a need in your community?
- Do not try to squeeze additional information on the worksheet columns. Use your narrative pages to give project details.

This Officer will be holding a Report Writing Zoom Meeting on December 11 at 10:30 a.m. This is a general meeting in which participants will be given an overall review of Report Writing and will be able to answer questions. Those wishing to participate can contact this Officer at the email above. Also, DVP's will be sending the link to all club presidents. Please share the link with your members.

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

This came from GFWC Facebook page, and it is appropriate to share this time of year and to use throughout the year!

You Will Never Know The IMPACT
You Make on the Lives of Others With Your
Acts of KINDNESS

Everyday Acts of Kindness

- Smile and greet people warmly – sometimes just being acknowledged can brighten someone's day
- Listen without interrupting – give someone your full attention
- Hold the door or help carry something heavy
- Other genuine compliments – point out the good you see in others

Supporting Others

- Check in on a friend or neighbor who may be going through a tough time

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (Continued)

- Send a thoughtful note or message just to let someone know you're thinking of them
- Cook a meal for someone who is sick, grieving or simply overwhelmed
- Volunteer your time at a shelter, school or community project
-

Encouraging and Empowering

- Encourage someone's dreams instead of pointing out obstacles
- Be patient with others especially when they're struggling
- Give people the benefit of the doubt – choose grace over judgement

Small but Powerful Gestures

- Pay it forward – cover someone's coffee, bus fare or groceries
- Donate gently used clothes or books to those who need them
- Say "Thank You" sincerely to service workers, teachers or anyone who helps you
- Respect people's time – being punctual is a subtle act of kindness

The beautiful thing about kindness is that it multiplies – when you show it, others are inspired to do the same.

Membership is showing Acts of Kindness in everything that you do! Like it says in the Collect – "Let us forget not to be kind".

NJSFWC TREASURER**carbley@njsfwc.org****Linda Carbley****🕒 Zoom Treasurer Workshop – Don't Miss It!**

Get ready to kick off the new year with confidence! Join me for a **Treasurer Workshop** on **Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

This fun and informative session will cover helpful tips, best practices, and resources to make your Treasurer role a breeze.

Ready to sign up? Check out the **flyer in the December ALMANAC** for registration details.

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

On December 2nd members just like you will celebrate Giving Tuesday. This day is an annual global movement of generosity that occurs the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, encouraging people to give back to their communities. It was started in 2012 and is celebrated through various acts of generosity, such as donating money or goods.

The movement harnesses the power of social media to connect and inspire people to support the causes they care about. This day is celebrated around the world as we celebrate the generosity of all organizations like the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs.

- Take a moment to think about the past 12 months and what NJSFWC has accomplished. We continue to experience power in numbers, and what can be done in an organization of determined women.
-

These projects and so many more do not happen without people and places to plan and organize, to educate, to coach and to inspire.

- We are proud to have a Headquarters building that is turning "60" where members meet to make it all happen. However, maintenance and other day-to-day expenses increase each year.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY (Continued)

“... a thing worth having is a thing worth paying for; no organization of any kind can be maintained without financial support.” This was written in 1932 by GFWC Foundation Fund Chairman Dr. Clara Burdette, in a campaign to raise money to meet organizational expenses. An organization cannot be maintained without financial support.

As we celebrate our 60 years in our Headquarters building, we are asking for your help by means of a donation to help continue the Federation’s work. If you have supported us in the past, thank you. We are grateful and hope you will consider donating again. If you have been thinking, “How can I make a difference in this Federation?” consider a donation on Giving Tuesday.

To donate, go to njsfwc.org and click on the yellow DONATE oval on the homepage. Even a small donation creates a rippling effect that strengthens NJSFWC. Thank you in advance for all you do and for all your support!

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

Tis the season of giving and the women of the College District are busy giving to those in need in December.

Most of our clubs will be holding Holiday Socials where they will share joy and camaraderie with each other.

Bridgewater Woman’s Club will be crafting tabletop Christmas Trees for local assisted living homes plus providing calendars, note pads and holiday cards for the residents.

Woman’s Club of Clinton will be collecting and answering over 100 “Letters to Santa” deposited in the North Pole Mailbox.

Flemington Woman’s Club will have holiday musical entertainment by the Hunterdon Senior Choir.

Greater Brunswick Area Woman’s Club will be doing holiday projects with kids at Women Aware.

Hightstown Woman’s Club will have a program “Victorian Holiday,” presented by the BurlCo Division of Parks Museum Curator.

Holland Township Woman’s Club will donate gift cards to their local schools.

Kalmia Club will be providing holiday decorations, ornaments and gifts to Fisherman’s Mark, a social service agency.

Metuchen Edison Women’s Club will collect for “Toys for Tots” and have a fundraiser at the St. Lukes Fair selling holiday items, baked goods and crafts.

North Brunswick Woman’s Club was incorporated on December 10, 1965 and celebrated their 60th anniversary with a 60’s themed party at Headquarters which included food, music and clothing from that era.

Princeton Area Woman’s Club will be working on their Wish Tree for DCF kids and raising funds for their charities at a mall Holiday Wrapping Booth.

Somerville Civic League Inc. will hold a holiday dinner for senior citizens as well as participate in Wreaths Across America

Suburban Woman’s Club of South Plainfield will provide two families with holiday food baskets and write 200 holiday cards for residents of the Menlo Park Veterans Home.

The **Woman’s Club of Tewksbury Township** will have a special outing of shopping and lunch, followed by creating bears for charity at Build-A-Bear Workshop.

GARDEN DISTRICT

schneider@njsfwc.org

Mary Schneider

Gloucester County Women's Club hosted a Craft Night making favors for the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden to be given out to those that frequent the Kitchen for meals. The club will be adopting families for the holidays with the funds provided by their Adopt-A-Family Raffle held in the Spring. The club will have their annual Holiday Get Together at their December meeting.

The Haddon Fortnightly will hold their annual Holiday Dinner at their club house. They are currently planning a *Mrs. Claus's Tea Party* to be held on December 14th at their club house, and the club is also collecting items for their Warming Tree.

The Haddon Fortnightly Evening Membership Department held a very successful Flea Market and will be holding their *7th Annual Snowflake Run* on December 6th, 9:00 a.m., to benefit Jackson's Wish, an organization that brings awareness of adolescent and teen mental health and suicide prevention.

Marlton Woman's Club recently had a speaker from NJ Children's Alliance at their meeting and members donated hats, gloves and scarves for the Waiting Rooms for all children to take as needed. They will be holding their Annual Cookie Exchange Social and attending their local high school's performance of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* this month. The club welcomed three (3) new members.

Woman's Club of Merchantville is sponsoring an *Aunt Charlotte's Candy Sale* with items available for the holidays. The club welcomed three new members.

Woman's League of Mount Holly donated 60 stockings to the Holiday Stocking project. Club members have been busy crocheting snowmen for their annual Wish Tree at the Burlington County Library.

Women's Club of Penns Grove-Carneys Point is continuing their sub sale through to December 31st.

Woman's Club of Pennsville continues to support the Holiday Stocking project filling the stockings with the requested items.

Woman's Club of Wenonah collected 41 towels and 65 washcloths which they delivered to four (4) battered women's shelters in the region.

Woman's Club of West Deptford will have their annual Holiday Dinner at a local restaurant with a cookie and ornament exchange. Members recently went to Longwood Gardens and will be attending the Mullica Hill Annual Christmas House Tour. The club welcomed another new member.

West Deptford Junior Women's Club is offering a *Countdown to Noon New Year's Eve Celebration!* A kid-friendly time so everyone can celebrate from 10:30 a.m. to their countdown and cider toast at Noon! Partygoers will enjoy a full morning of activities and fun – DIY New Year's crafts, a Wish Wall with their hopes for the New Year, Toast Bar with jams and jellies, face painting, noisemakers, hair tinsel, temporary tattoos, a Glo Dance party and a countdown. For ages 2-10 and one adult must accompany each child.

Woman's Club of Woodstown is writing holiday greeting cards to residents of the Vineland Veterans' Home. They also have their "Letters for Santa" mailboxes prominently displayed around town for children to drop off letters to Santa which will be answered by the members of this club. Their lending library at the laundromat continues to be an asset to their community. The club welcomed three new members.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

jeisi@njsfwc.org

Karen Jeisi

Blair Woman's Club of Blairstown: Supporting Clover Rest Home with cookies and holiday cards and Veterans North Haven, Blairstown Police and Fire Departments with snack bags/candy tins and holiday cards.

Boonton Woman's Club: Writing cards and providing socks and t-shirts for veterans. Placing Wish Trees at various Boonton businesses.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (Continued)

Hackettstown Woman's Club: Participating in the community annual drive for essential items for Veterans. Leading a Folding Book Craft class using old paperback books.

Hopatcong Woman's Club: Buying gifts for 15 children in the local Head Start program and also preparing boxes of cookies for the families. Collecting food for the local food pantry.

Long Valley Woman's Club: Donated to Washington Township Senior Center Turkey Trot fundraiser. Assisting Long Valley JWC in the Blanket Making Linus Project, providing handmade blankets to terminally ill children.

Parsippany Woman's Club: Donating 120 filled stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking. Participating in Wreaths Across America and donating to Trees for Troops, which provides holiday trees and decorations to soldiers' families.

Roxbury Woman's Club: For Deirdre's House and Operation Sisterhood, participating in community-wide collection of gifts. They will participate in Wreaths Across America and will be caroling at Merry Heart Healthcare facility.

Sparta Woman's Club: Filled 38 stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking. They made ornaments for JWC of Sparta's Wish Tree Ornament project; each ornament tagged with a request for a gift for a local child in need and participated in Wreaths Across America.

Thursday Morning Club: Held its major fundraiser, the popular annual Bazar de Noel, on November 14 and 15. They donated 24 filled stockings to Operation Holiday Stocking.

Vernon Twp. Woman's Club: Participated in the Heaven Hill Pumpkin Festival and prepared birthday bags for the Homestead Rehab and Health Care Center. Provided personalized duffle bags to support 'Bags for Buddies' to replace trash bags used by foster care children for transitions. Donating teddy bears and blankets to Ginnie's House for their Holiday Party.

Washington Woman's Club: Donating 17 stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking. Only 240 lbs. away from donating another NexTrex bench to the community; when that goal is achieved, they will have kept 5000 lbs. of plastic out of the environment. They donated 32 pocketbooks filled with essential items for women to the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County.

LIBERTY DISTRICT

Woman's Club of Allwood collected gently used coats and jackets for the Clifton Fire Department's annual October coat drive for Clifton Charities, residents and families in need. Clifton's Code Blue project helps the homeless in cold weather. The club has collected Christmas gifts for the seven moms at Hope Through Care.

Woman's Club of Arlington planned a high tea for residents of a local nursing home.

Woman's Club of Arlington EMD donated a hand-crafted holiday wreath for a Senior Center festival and donated teen holiday gifts to the Salvation Army.

Woman's Club of Belleville participated in the NJSFWC holiday stocking project and attended the township's 911 Memorial Service in September.

Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights held a Blood Drive with the town Rescue Squad on October 31 and collected food for the LINC volunteer program for Thanksgiving.

Woman's Club of Caldwell helped serve donated food at the Opioid Walk in October. Members placed a Warming Tree outside the Senior Building for the donations of hats, gloves and scarves. Bags of free food are placed outside the Food Pantry for the taking.

Woman's Club of Little Falls Warm Up America group meets monthly to create needlework blankets and clothing items that are donated to a variety of civic services. The club provides a year's worth of pajamas for St. Joseph Children's Hospital.

LIBERTY DISTRICT (Continued)

Montclair Women's Club has been a proud sponsor of S.O.F.I.A (Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates) and participated in their annual walk in September. The club also held weekly chair yoga sessions for a month this fall. They also invited members of Montclair Women Over 50 for a Friendsgiving potluck at their clubhouse.

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair held an interactive program in November to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary that featured a reading of The Declaration of Independence. They'll hold a Christmas Tea this month.

Woman's Club of Verona will participate this month in the town's Fair in the Square.

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

Book and Needle Club of Oradell is presenting a program about Frank Sinatra at their December general meeting.

Woman's Club of Carlstadt continues pulling tickets for their calendar raffle fundraiser and will celebrate the holidays with a dinner at a local restaurant.

Cresskill Woman's Club will host a luncheon for the Holidays at GUILIO's in Old Tappan, New York

Woman's Club of Englewood will present a musical program at their general meeting

Great Pascack Valley Woman's Club will host their annual Cookies and Cocoa with Santa in conjunction with the Park Ridge Elks.

Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights will be having their Holiday party at a local restaurant.

Woman's Club of Lyndhurst will hold their annual Holiday Market on December 7. They will once again be adopting a local family, and making their Christmas bright.

Woman's Club of Old Tappan will be hosting their annual Breakfast with Santa on December 6.

Woman's Club of Paramus will present a Holiday Spectacular at their December meeting.

Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park will participate in Wreaths Across America.

The Junior Woman's Club of Rutherford will host Snack with Santa on Saturday, December 6

The Woman's Club of Rutherford will hold Bunco Night at their Clubhouse on December 11.

Woman's Club of Westwood filled 26 stockings for Operation Holiday Stockings and are making plans for their Holiday Dinner.

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

Allendale Woman's Club will participate in the town's holiday event, serving hot chocolate and cookies to residents strolling and visiting Santa. The Club will also have a "Progressive Dinner". Homelife Committee will deliver gifts fulfilled from a Wishlist provided by local organizations. Members will enjoy a cookie exchange that will also benefit the elderly and shut-ins. SHARE committee will help with crafts at the town's Special Needs Housing. Finally, the Book Club will meet to discuss their latest reading.

Woman's Club of Franklin Lakes will be celebrating their Annual Holiday Lunch on December 17 and will enjoy the social gathering with a delicious meal and games.

RAMAPO DISTRICT (Continued)

Montville Twp. Woman's Club will host their Annual Holiday Dinner and Yankee Swap. The Club will adopt a family for the Children's Alliance project. The Club will also be donating pillows for women who have endured breast surgery. A tree will be donated to a Veterans group. The Club will be assisting with the Town's Annual Tree Lighting and Santa visit. Cookies and hot Chocolate will be served.

Woman's Club of Pine Lakes: This Club will host its Annual Holiday Party and gift auction with donations going to the NJ Children's Alliance.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club collected combined efforts of multiple committees via \$25 gift cards for children of various ages. The gifts are given to the local Police Department for family distribution and selection. Their Annual Holiday Potluck will feature dinner. The local school's chorus is performing as well as traditional story telling by a select member.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains delivered 20 Holiday Stockings for Veterans. They are filling 140 decorated coffee cans with cookies and candy to be distributed to homebound members, Boonton Fireman's Home, cancer centers, police, fire and DPW. They will celebrate with a holiday dinner and grab bag gifts.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey will host an Ugly Sweater Holiday Bunco and will also sponsor a picture/cookie/story time/craft with Santa.

Woman's Club of Ridgewood: This Club will be donating 20 turkeys to Valley Hospital for cancer families. They will host a Pancake Breakfast for the local teen foster home. Members celebrate with a Holiday Party on December 13. The Girl Scouts will be assisting the Club in wrapping gifts for SOS and in donating a holiday dinner for SOS.

Woman's Club of Riverdale assembled 30 stockings for Operation Stockings for Veterans. CPR and Self Defense training are planned for members.

Saddle Brook Woman's Club donated \$300 Walmart gift cards to the food pantry and \$300 for teen gifts and toys plus everything needed to wrap gifts for the town's private toy drive. The Club will serve cookies at the town-wide holiday celebration.

Woman's Club of West Milford Township will be participating in Wreaths Across America and placing wreaths at each of the three cemeteries in town. They will also have a table at the local church bazaar and a High Holiday Tea.

Past Presidents of the Eleventh District Ramapo: A Brown Bag Auction is planned for January, and a springtime tea fundraiser is planned for April.

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

The Woman's Club of Asbury Park is holding a Holiday Bazaar with music, raffles, give-a-ways and more. They continue to hold weekly Mahjong.

The Woman's Club of Belmar is preparing for their Winter Extravaganza Gift Auction.

The Woman's Club of Brielle is gathering about 50-60 Stockings for the military; assembled by both the day and evening groups. They made "Take and Make" craft kits for children to do at home which were given out at the community tree lighting. The evening group is making Christmas cards for Veterans. Red, White, and Blue Afghans made by their Knit Wits group were donated to a Veteran's Home.

The Howell Women's Club is participating in Adopt-A-Family in which they are given a wish list from the township for a family in need. They will provide all the gifts and necessities from the list. They will also fill holiday cookie boxes for local Seniors and a cookie exchange for members. They will have a Holiday Celebration and Gift Exchange.

The Woman's Club of Lacey will hold a Special Needs Holiday Party and is continuing their Calendar Raffle.

SHORE DISTRICT (Continued)

The **Little Silver Woman's Club** will be holding their annual holiday luncheon. A member ran Holiday Express workshops to make 400+ ornaments for children. Members teamed up with a student at the Trinity School for a coat drive.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** will be collecting gift cards for the moms at 180 Turning Lives Around to give to their children as well as items for First Night kits. Their monthly program will be on "What it takes to run a food pantry" with cans of soup and beans as the entry fee for their holiday activities.

The **Woman's Club of Middletown** collected a number of filled Christmas stockings for the military.

The **Past President's Club** is continuing to collect socks for the homeless.

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** is taking part in Wreaths Across America, holding a Christmas Bunco fundraiser and collecting toys and gift cards for teens for a local food pantry.

The **Woman's Club of Spring Lake** will be selling jewelry and handmade crafts at their Holiday General meeting. Their Annual Holiday Dinner Dance will be held at the Essex and Sussex, an elegant and popular event. Line Dancing lessons have taken off with about 45 members.

The **Woman's Club of Stafford** has a lot planned. They are hosting Bunco, Music Bingo, a Christmas lunch, and a Christmas play. They are taking part in a soup lunch, food drive, and Christmas stockings for the military.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
speechley@njswc.org
Carole Speechley

Members of the **Woman's Club of Absecon** will bring Uber and Lyft gift cards for the SSP to their Christmas luncheon. At the October and November meetings they made no-sew flannel blankets for Kimmy's Safe Haven Rescue in Egg Harbor City. Kimmy attended the November meeting and was given the blankets.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** will celebrate the Holidays at the Lobster House with a luncheon, games and the installation of their new member. This month's collection is winter hats, gloves and scarves. They will again participate in Wreaths Across America.

Members of the **Colony Club of Ocean City** will hold their Holiday meeting and celebration with a dinner and Pollyanna gift exchange at Randazzo's Restaurant. December 4th is the start of their Giving Tree and a Gingerbread House Contest. They will participate in Wreaths Across America.

The **Country Shore Woman's Club** filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox with small items such as socks, hats, school supplies, hair bows, etc.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** will celebrate the Holidays with a dinner and gift exchange. They will deliver poinsettias to shut-ins and participate in Hammonton School District's Joy of Giving. They continue to collect items for their Kid's Closet.

The **Millville Woman's Club's** Tree of Remembrance will benefit their High School Scholarship fund. Their Cookie/Candy event will produce "Sweets for Seniors". They will have a catered Holiday Luncheon with the MWC Chorus leading a Carol Sing-a-Long.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** will meet at a local restaurant for some fellowship in early December. Members will also meet for a holiday-themed Crafts and Conversation. Their Paint & Sip fundraiser should produce some modern Christmas tree paintings for Achievement Day. They'll bake cookies for the Veterans' Memorial Home in Vineland.

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

reddick@njsfwc.org

Kathleen Reddick

Baby, It's cold outside. Who cares? Get out and enjoy the arts and culture that New Jersey has to offer. Load up the SUV and plan a road trip close to home. Let's delve into the festive season together!

Holiday Craft Shows:

The **Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council's Holiday Craft & Fine Art Show** (November 28 - January 8) at the Sussex County Fairgrounds offers a fantastic collection of handcrafted items from local artisans. Discover unique gifts and perhaps pick up some inspiration for your own crafting endeavors.

<https://www.scahc.org/HolidayMarket>

The **Morristown Craft Festival** (December 10-12) showcases contemporary crafts from regional artists. Engage with makers, enjoy live demonstrations, and support the local arts community!

<https://morristowngreen.com/calendar/holiday-craftmorristown-2025/>

Artistic Inspiration for the Holiday Season: Carve out some time to embrace your creativity.

- **Holiday Card Making:** Use your artistic skills to create personalized holiday cards. Handwritten notes add a heartfelt touch that electronic cards simply can't replicate.
- **DIY Holiday Ornaments:** Channel your inner craftsman by creating unique ornaments. Simple materials like salt dough, pinecones, or even recycled materials can be transformed into stunning decorations. Host a crafting night with friends to double the fun and creativity!

Baking and Family Recipe Tips

Nothing brings friends together quite like treats. This holiday season, take the time to bake those cherished family recipes or try something new.

- **Share the Family Recipe:** Consider writing a short piece about a beloved family recipe and sharing it with members at your next club meeting. It can bring members closer together through the stories that food tells, and it's a wonderful way to keep traditions alive.
- **Host a Baking Exchange:** Organize a cookie exchange!

TOP TEN: Let's finish with two more of the NJ Top Ten Arts and Culture projects submitted to GFWC.

Highlands District: The Junior Woman's Club of Jefferson offered a Second Grade Art Event. They provided second graders from two elementary schools in town with three shapes on an entry form. Students were asked to use their imaginations to create an original work of art using these three shapes. Junior Woman's Club members voted on all the entries. Many students participated and the children did an incredible job. Three winners were chosen from each school, and received certificates and prizes. This event merged community, art, and geometry for very young children.

Southern District: The Woman's Club of Vineland held a year-ending Evening in Paris Summer Salad Social. Posters of famous French sites and people greeted members as they entered. Plaster pedestals held silk ferns, giving a museum-like feel. In the main room, members were suddenly transported to Paris. A wall-sized backdrop of the Eiffel Tower with a fireworks display gave the illusion of actual bursting fireworks. A side wall boasted a life-sized can-can dancer created by two Club members. Her shirt was a hand decorated gathered plastic tablecloth and she wore a curly wig with feathers. Her limbs were flesh colored poster board and she wore fancy little boots. The tables were dressed in pink and black satin with centerpieces of glass globe candleholders adorned with a miniature Eiffel Tower. One area of the room was converted into a French Café. The menu, music of France, and a Paris Trivia Game capped off an amazing event.

Wishing you all a joyful, creative, and art-filled holiday season.

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

brown@njsfwc.org

Ann Ribinsky Brown

The Arts Performing Community Service Program wishes everyone happy December holidays, and offers some suggestions for New Jersey live theatre that club members may enjoy.

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (Continued)

A hidden gem, Music Mountain Théâtre, located outside of Lambertville, is offering a musical adaptation of the classic "A Christmas Carol, Nov. 28th – Dec. 14, Friday and Saturday, at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, at 3:00 p.m. Based on the novel by Charles Dickens, this spectacular musical adaptation is an affordable \$33.

Gather your friends together for a trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton. This venue is beautifully decorated for Christmas, and offers an excellent meal followed by a holiday variety show "Christmas at the Playhouse." Call the box office, 800-447-7313 for reservations.

Experience the timeless magic of the season with "The Nutcracker" ballet at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. It is performed this year by the Ukraine Ballet Theater Company. Eastern Europe is known for its superb ballet. To add an additional international experience, visit one of the numerous Portuguese restaurants in the nearby Ironbound section.

Do your club members like to sing? Come be part of the "Holiday Doo Wop" on December 13 at the Bergan PAC in Englewood or relax and enjoy "The Old Crow Medicine Show's Holiday Hootenanny" on December 20.

The shore does not close for the winter. "Elf, the Musical" will be presented at the Surflight Theater in Beach Haven, Nov. 29 to Dec. 21. Call the box office 609-492-9477 for tickets.

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas", the musical, will be the feature show at the Broadway Theatre of Pitman from Dec. 12 to Dec 21. And if you need a good, relaxing laugh, also on the Pitman stage, come see "Home for the Holidays with the Calamari Sisters" Dec. 26 to Dec. 28.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
pogosaew@njsfwc.org**Dawn Pogosaew**

The winter months are a perfect time to be aware of fire prevention and safety measures. One of the leading causes of house fires is cooking followed by heating and electrical issues.

Before you prepare that holiday meal this month, spend a little time to keep you and your family safe.

- Never leave anything cooking on or in the stove unsupervised. Don't leave the kitchen!
- Keep surfaces around your stove free from clutter especially anything flammable.
- Make sure curtains are far away from any heat sources.
- Purchase a home kitchen fire extinguisher (available at many stores like Lowes/Home Depot, Target, Walmart, etc.). Make sure you know how to use it and check it annually.
- Know how to put out a grease fire: Turn off the heat source, use a metal lid or cookie sheet to cover a fire in a pan or pour baking soda or salt over the flames. Never use water as it could splatter the grease and continue to burn. Wait for everything to cool completely before trying to remove the lid and pan.
- Always clean up any grease and food buildup in and around the stove.
- Check all electrical appliances for any damage before using.
- Change the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Children love to help you cook-make sure they are aware of hot surfaces, pots, and food and make sure they know what to do in case of a fire.
- Never leave any open flame unattended including candles and fireplaces.
- Make sure that you and your family know what to do in case of a fire. Have a plan to evacuate the house and call for help.
- Invite your local fire department to hold a program on home fire prevention and safety. They will be able to show you how to use your new extinguisher too!

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
murdock@njsfwc.org**Joan Murdock**

The Education and Libraries Department is alive, well and living in the 160 clubs of the NJSFWC.'s. Yes, every one of our clubs will do something that belongs to this department.

For Instance: Did you read a book yesterday? If you did, consider becoming a member of the GFWC ESO. (Epsilon Sigma Omicron Society). Information can be found on njsfwc.org website.

Have you or your book club registered for the ***Between the Pages*** Book Club? Join us, it's easy and fun!

Have you visited your Library recently? Did you read to children? Did you contribute to a Free Little Library? Do you support National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026)? Have you sponsored a workshop at your library making bookmarks or crafts?

Are you involved with your children's/grandchildren's school? Are you thinking about Read Across America (Monday, March 2, 2026)? or Teacher's Appreciation Day? Did you do this in 2025, as well?

Is your club sponsoring a CLUB spelling bee? Have you checked out the new club rules on our website?

Well, there you go...a small synopsis of what you can do and include in your Year End Reports. **And please, add a short narrative** on how you did a favorite project, ie: reading to seniors, a classroom project your club helped with, that bookmark you had children make to pass out at a town event! (See the top ten projects on our website for examples) Check out the supplements in the Yearbook or online and see how important your Education and Libraries Department is! And NOW... A ***Between the Pages*** Book Club review. This review is from Lee Manzoni, a member of the Woman's Club of West Milford-Ramapo.

Book: [The Sands of Sea Blue Beach](#) Author: Rachel Hauck

This is a love story. Two individuals who met as teenagers while one was on vacation. Fate brings them together 16 years later. Can anything rekindle the summer love between sweethearts facing old wounds and a divided town? A great and easy read.

Thank you, Lee!! Keep Reading Everyone....

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
bernice@njsfwc.org**Dorothy Bernice**

The Holidays are a great time to teach children, grandchildren and others by example. In my family no one throws away Holiday Greeting Cards. Instead, they are given to me and this Chairman cuts them up to make gift tags. This may be something your club can do and then punch holes at the top, thread a ribbon through the hole give the tags to shelters or nursing homes for residents to use.

It has become a custom for many to send picture cards. These are trimmed and placed in a picture frame around your home during the year. At the end of that year, take the pictures out of the frame and place them in protective plastic sheets and put them in a binder. Leave the binder out and guests love looking through it to see how children have grown into adults with children of their own.

Wrapping is another waste. Buy various size bags with the same design for each member of the family. Everyone should have a design of their own. Presents for that person is placed in bags with the same design. There is no need to sort presents since everyone knows which bags belong to them. Gift tags can still be used so you know who gave you that thoughtful gift.

Anytime you can save something from going to the landfill you are doing something good for the Environment.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
chambers2@njsfwc.org**Katie Chambers**

As we look ahead to 2026, here are more of last year's Top 10 Projects to inspire your own club's future activities:

Marlton Woman's Club (Garden District) held its fourth annual weight loss challenge. The member who loses the most weight during the first three months of the year gets to pick a charity where the club donates \$1 for every pound lost. A total of \$147 in tribute to the 147 pounds lost in 2024 was donated to Asher House Animal Sanctuary.

Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield (College District)'s "Hearts Creative" group made and delivered six hearts and three flat animals to the JFK Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation. The foundation shared that the hearts are especially comforting for heart patients and provide relief from seat belt pressure for women leaving the hospital after breast surgery, while dementia and pediatric patients love the animals. The club also contributed seven (7) lap robes and two (2) shawls to JFK, plus thirty-four (34) additional lap robes and six (6) shawls from community partners.

After reading about Flow Forward NJ on a bulletin board at Rowan University, the **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton (Southern District)** leapt into action. The nonprofit provides free period supplies to women and teens. The club collected items and filled 24 cosmetics bags of tampons, pads, and pantyliners for high school and middle school nurses' offices.

Flemington Woman's Club (College District) welcomed guest speaker Rose Miller of "Rose Knows Where It Goes," a personal organizer and downsizing specialist with over a decade of experience. Rose promotes stress free living by getting our "things" under control. She taught members about how to work toward a clutter-free house that keep memories alive by choice of what to keep and what to purge.

The **Metuchen Edison Women's Club (College District)** has formed a walking group for members to meet regularly and exercise in the fresh air. But this group used it as an opportunity for membership and publicity development as well! Members meet up every other Saturday morning at a local trail. Their walks were mentioned by Della Crews on News 12 New Jersey. Between word of mouth through friends and the TV publicity, the walks garnered four new club members.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains (Ramapo District) makes "blessing bracelets." A note is attached to each handmade bracelet reminding the wearer to focus on the positive. Bracelets are handed out to friends, neighbors, and homebound members – whoever needs a happiness boost.

December's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving: Here's another way to combine community service and exercise: Delivering meals for Meals on Wheels gives you a chance to stay active by walking to and from homes, climbing stairs, and carrying light loads. The regular movement involved in making deliveries can help improve your stamina and keep your joints flexible. It's a meaningful way to fit exercise into your routine while supporting older adults in your community.

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

Did you know UNICEF falls under Advocates for Children?

It is one of several GFWC Affiliate Organizations under Advocates for Children. They include a few groups that we in New Jersey are very familiar with including Canine Companions for Independence, Prevent Child Abuse, Operation Smile, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shot at Life, and HOBY.

If you are not aware of HOBY, it is a youth leadership program whose mission is to inspire and prepare future young **leaders** for a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.

Perhaps YOUR club might consider sending a student or two to this very worthwhile program.

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

Each year the NJSFWC Bylaws Committee reviews the Bylaws and makes recommendations for amendments. Clubs and members are asked to review the present Bylaws and submit any proposed amendments to this Chairman by

BYLAWS (Continued)

October 15th. The committee met, finalized the proposals and submitted them to the Executive Committee for approval before they are submitted to the Board for their approval and presentation at the Convention in May.

When your club receives the NJSFWC proposed amendments to the Bylaws, please take some time at your club meetings to review the amendments. Also take some time to know what is in the present NJSFWC Bylaws which can be found in their entirety in the 2025-2026 Yearbook beginning on page 239. If there is something you don't understand – please ask.

COMMUNICATIONS

rothstein@njsfwc.org

Shelley Rothstein

The History of our Federation Badge:

New Jersey's first Federation President was Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley. Elected on November 16, 1894, at the age of 50. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Orange, the oldest club in New Jersey.

A Constitution and Bylaws were written, adopted, and officers were elected. The first official gavel was presented to the Federation by Mrs. Yardley herself.

The purpose of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs was "to bring the women's clubs of the state into communication for acquaintance and mutual helpfulness."

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors on December 4, 1894, it was decided that a badge should be created for the clubwomen of the Federation. Mrs. Brooks of the Monday Afternoon Club of Passaic proposed a design inspired by the New Jersey State Coat of Arms. Her design featured a shield-shaped background of light blue enamel, with a plough symbolizing the state's agricultural heritage, and a rising sun. The badge also included the word "Unity" and the letters "NJSF."

The colors buff and blue, chosen by General George Washington in 1779 while he was headquartered in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War, were adopted as the official colors. These were the military colors used by New Jersey troops.

By February 1895, the emblem had been officially adopted. These small blue badges, not to exceed sixty cents, were owned by clubwomen and served as the official Federation pin.

All Federation logos and emblems can be found on our website www.njsfwc.org in the Materials section and clubs are encouraged to use them on all communications.

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM

battaglia@njsfwc.org

Jean Battaglia

Congratulations, you have gathered the information for all the work your club did in 2025 and are ready to write your year-end reports. Are you especially proud of a project that helped solve a need in your community? Is there a project that took extra preparation and overcoming significant obstacles? Did you partner with another community organization to conduct one of the projects? All of these are factors that make an ideal project to submit for a Community Impact Award. Projects you started after January 1, 2024, and will have completed by December 31, 2025, qualify. Each club likely has something to submit, remembering that even small projects can have 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 are 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.

CONVENTION**finn@njsfwc.org****Vivien Finn**

"CALLING ALL CLUBS"! It is not too early to think about putting an ad in the Convention Program Journal. The fees remain the same as last year!

The Convention theme is "When Friends Gather". Every club has something to brag about or to show appreciation to a member of their club by placing an ad in the Journal.

The ads must be sent digitally to hosier@njsfwc.org by **FEBRUARY 15, 2026**, as well as a paper copy to Denise Hosier, 122 Sandpiper Lane, West Deptford, NJ 08086. All instructions are on the forms included in this ALMANAC.

In addition to an ad, you can be a "Friends of Convention". This form is also included in this ALMANAC and can be mailed to Joanne Mangels, NJSFWC Headquarters, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. The deadline date is **February 28, 2026**.

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

The State Fall Conference was held Monday October 20, 2025, at The Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. The evening before members filled goodie bags for those attending the conference. Monday morning this Chairman and her committee arrived early to greet the vendors and set up for the day. A table for donations for Operation Sisterhood was set up in the lobby, and an abundance of items were brought with the members. The Communication Chairman was set up in the vendor room along with the NJSFWC Sales Table, Perrit Labs, and eight vendors.

The day began with the DVP's registering members from their district, shopping in the vendor room, with coffee and breakfast items available upon arrival.

President Barbara McCloskey and Karen Osborne, Shore DVP, welcomed everyone to the conference.

The first morning speaker was the State Historian, Randi Quilici, who spoke about NJSFWC State President Geraldine Brown Sentell who oversaw the opening of Headquarters after its initial construction. The next speaker was Leslie Danehy, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs at Douglass Residential College.

The afternoon Keynote Speaker was Lucy Del Gaudio founder of Operation Sisterhood an outreach organization for woman veterans. Also speaking was Helen Archontou the CEO of YWCA of Northern NJ. Then, the GFWC and Membership Net-gain Awards as well as the Membership Grants were given out.

The 50-50 Raffle was held, and each winner went home with \$430.00, and the Headquarters fund received \$861.00. Overall, the conference had a record of 204 in attendance and 62 clubs were represented.

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

As the holidays in December approach, consider donating holiday decorations for the shelters. Always check with the office of the facilities before donating items.

Personal care products for the residents of the Domestic Facilities placed in a decorative bag are always a welcome gift for the women. If you have a gently used purse, you can put the personal care items in the purse to make a mom feel special. Suggested items are tissues, comb, mirror, 2026 pocket calendar, a gift card to Target, or gas or food store would also be appreciated.

Members can also create an Angry Bag containing a squishy ball, crayons, coloring book, a pad and pen and a small cuddly stuffed toy would be great for the children living at a shelter to help with emotions that bubble up at different times – especially during the holiday season.

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE

lund@njsfwc.org

Ellen Lund

The dates for the 2026 GCI have been finalized. GCI 2026 will be held on Monday, June 1st to Thursday, June 4th. This Chairman was able to speak at five District Council meetings concerning minor changes for the GCI program. Also, to emphasize all GCI deadlines. She hopes to speak at the other three in January.

All money for delegates must be post marked by January 31, 2026. You may send as many Delegates as you want but only select one Alternate.

- All Delegates and Alternates must complete the online application by March 15, 2026. Please make sure the Delegates and Alternate you select know what club is sponsoring them.

All online forms are currently being updated and will be posted on the NJSFWC website. The handouts given to the girls are being upgraded as well.

All GCI Orientations will be held throughout the month of April.

- Our new wish list will be posted online as well. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. A new volunteer form will also be online with more details on what will be occurring on different days and times.

All those who are speaking at GCI must commit by March 31st

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this Chairman.

HEADQUARTERS

fowler@njsfwc.org

Adrienne Fowler

Has anyone ever really looked at the outside of Headquarters?

- If you have, you probably have never thought about the brick. How did the brick come about? Did you know that brick can be made by hand and that it is actually cheaper to do so nowadays? To make brick you need to prepare it by mixing water and sand, mold it, allow it to dry and then fire it at 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. By doing this you have hardened and waterproofed your brick.

If you repaint the mortar every 10 to 20 years and do not paint the exterior, which would trap moisture, and make sure that the gutters and flashing are in good condition directing the water away from the walls the brick exterior can last anywhere from 100 years to over 650 years.

Surprise, right now there are no brick manufacturers in New Jersey. There once were brick manufacturers in Sayreville, Woodbridge, South River and along the Hackensack River and Little Ferry, but no longer. New Jersey now only has suppliers.

While brick homes have excellent thermal mass which equals a dense material that stores heat and slowly releases it which equals cooler summers and warmer winters it takes longer to manufacture and costs more. Experienced professionals can lay 300 to 500 bricks per day.

This is the equivalent of about 40 to 60 bricks per hour. Costs could be \$1.00 to \$1.25 per brick or \$70.00 to \$110.00 per hour. It is hard to calculate what the cost would be to do a brick building like ours today, unless of course you are a contractor, but by calculations it would be around \$60,000 just for the brickwork and it would of course take weeks to do in good weather.

So next time you are walking into Headquarters, look around because "our home" will be here for our children and their children and their children and with luck it will indeed last for the full 650 years!

HISTORIAN

quilici@njsfwc.org

Randi Quilici

The Honor Roll & Honors Book: Celebrating Its History and Purpose During the Season of Giving

In the early years of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, it became clear that the women leading the organization could not be expected to fund its operations alone. To address this, the **Endowment Fund** was authorized on October 22, 1910, during the semi-annual Convention in Westfield. Letters requesting support were sent to clubs in May 1911. By December 15, 1911, the first report showed \$1,200 had been raised, and the initiative was referred to as

HISTORIAN (Continued)

the “**Department of Prosperity**.” Trustees were appointed to oversee the fund, and it was officially incorporated on March 18, 1912.

On May 2, 1913, outgoing State President Mrs. Howard C. Warren proposed the creation of a **Founders’ List** to inspire further contributions. The first **Founders’ Book**, bound in blue, was presented a year later, on May 8, 1914, by State President Mrs. William T. Ropes. It was dedicated to Mrs. Charles B. Yardley, the first President of the NJSFWC. Clubs were invited to contribute funds in exchange for a page in the book, where they could record the **names and accomplishments of women** they wished to **honor or memorialize**. The first volume filled quickly, and a second book was later presented by the State’s Ex Club.

In May 1956, the Endowment Fund was closed. However, the tradition of recognizing outstanding service continued through the **Federation Honor Roll**, which acknowledges clubs and individuals who have made significant contributions to their club, community, or the Federation.

As we enter this season of giving, consider honoring a deserving club member through the **Honor Roll**, a meaningful way to **recognize service and dedication** for \$50. Tributes are recorded in the Honor Roll Book kept at Federation Headquarters. There is also a **Memorials Book** for a deceased Clubwomen or Club friends for \$15. Information can be found at <https://njsfwc.org/materials/>

For year-round recognition, or a **thoughtful holiday gift**, you may also enroll a member, woman or man, in the **NJSFWC Honors Book**. To do so, send the honoree’s name, address, a brief reason for the honor, and a \$20 check marked “**Honors Book**” to NJSFWC Headquarters. An acknowledgment will be sent to notify the honoree of your tribute. <https://njsfwc.org/materials/>

The Top Ten Projects for 2024 are full of exciting ideas. Here are two that could inspire your club.

1. The Pompton Lakes Women’s Club, comprising 93 members, oversees the stewardship of more than 1,000 historical artifacts, documents, and photographs related to the town’s history. These items are used to create displays in the town’s municipal building, sharing the town’s rich heritage with the community. The club is responsible for selecting and curating the items for each display.

Recently, when the Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad responded to a wildfire in the area, the club dedicated a display in their honor to recognize their commitment to the community’s safety. Members reviewed their inventory database to select meaningful artifacts for the tribute. They retrieved photographs, including some from the early 1900s, along with newspaper articles, anniversary mugs, and documents from their storage unit. These items are now proudly displayed in the town hall as a testament to the dedication of these local heroes.

2. During Women’s History Month in March, the Woman’s Club of Matawan, comprising 24 members, hosted a Women’s History Quiz. Members were divided into Team A and Team B. One member prepared the questions, organized small prizes for both winners and participants, and created a score-tracking board. Questions were initially posed to Team A, and if unanswered, passed to Team B. Correct answers earned teams the chance to tackle bonus questions. Scores were tracked, and the winning team was announced at the end of the event."

HONORS

fairchild@njsfwc.org

Cheryl Fairchild

This is the time of the year to begin exploring candidates for the Cecilia Gaines Holland Award. This award is given at Convention to a Federation member whose accomplishments and service to the community fall outside Club work.

Also, consider placing a member on the NJSFWC Honor Roll or the Order of the Lily. The Honor Roll is a way to publicly honor members for the work they have done for your club. The Honor Roll tribute is read at the District Spring Conference, and a brief tribute is inscribed in the Honor Roll book at Headquarters.

For a club member who is already on the Honor Roll, the Order of the Lily is an additional way to further honor a member for their continued service.

All information and forms for awards can be found on the NJSFWC website under Materials – Honors, Awards and Achievements.

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

Do your members know about the GFWC Legislative Action Center and/or the Legislative Ladder? Are they registered? During club meetings, were discussions held on local policy issues or did members attend local public hearings on specific issues?

Has your club submitted a resolution by the December 15th deadline, using the format available on the NJSFWC website? Does your club have a Legislation Chairman?

Were the United States Senators/Representatives or New Jersey Assemblypersons/Senators contacted or attended club meetings about topics that were of interest to members?

Did your club members read and/or support NJSFWC Active Resolutions?

Has your club submitted a Resolution(s) to the Legislation/ Resolutions Chairman?

Have club members participated in Letter Writing Campaigns/Workshops on Legislative issues?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, CONGRATULATIONS! The NJSFWC Legislation/Resolutions Report Worksheet for 2025 is almost complete. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to this Chairman who is always happy to assist. Your report forms must be postmarked no later than February 1st. And please include a narrative on your projects - no matter how brief. You deserve recognition for your diligent efforts. And this Officer welcomes receiving your forms and reading the details about your work throughout the year.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**hrycenko@njsfwc.org****Linda Hrycenko**

This is a reminder that the deadline for nominating a capable candidate from your club to the NJSFWC Board of Directors for 2026-2028 is quickly approaching. All clubs have received a mailing outlining the procedure to be followed for nominating a candidate. The procedure for nominating a candidate to the Board of Directors can also be found on the NJSFWC website.

For the nomination to be valid, the nominee's club must nominate the candidate. The President and Recording Secretary must sign the White Nomination Blank. This must be mailed to the Chairman of Nominations and Elections, Linda Hrycenko, Federation Headquarters, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick NJ 08901 postmarked no later than **January 6, 2026**.

A black and white passport photo and a narrative, not to exceed 200 words, describing the candidate's qualifications must be emailed to the Chairman of Nominations at hrycenko@njsfwc.org postmarked no later than **January 6, 2026**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lin Hrycenko at (732) 406-3983 or hrycenko@njsfwc.com. Remember, this is your club's opportunity to invest in the future of the NJSFWC by nominating a qualified candidate for the Board of Directors of the NJSFWC! Thank you for participating in the nominating process for the NJSFWC by nominating a qualified candidate from your club to the next Board of Directors.

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT**shoemaker@njsfwc.org****April Shoemaker**

Please consider a new project for the New Jersey Children's Alliance called Operation Duffle Bag. From January 1, 2026 through March 10, 2026 your club can donate a duffle bag that will be used for children who need to leave their home in emergency situations.

Complete information and instructions about the contents within this ALMANAC entitled NJSFWC SPECIAL STATE PROJECT. Duffle Bags can be brought to designated CAC Centers, as designated on the flyer or to HQ BEFORE March 10. Any questions can be sent to this Chairman at the above email.

WEBMASTER

webmaster@njsfwc.org

Denise Hosier

Protect Yourself While Holiday Shopping Online

While online shopping is generally safe, the holiday season brings a spike in scams targeting shoppers. Scammers use phishing emails, fake websites, and fraudulent ads to steal personal and financial information. By adopting smart and cautious habits, you can significantly reduce your risk.

Protect yourself against holiday shopping scams:

- Verify the retailer and stick to reputable vendors. Only shop from online retailers you know and trust. Type the web address directly into your browser instead of clicking links from social media or emails.
- Check for security. Before entering any payment information, ensure the website address begins with "https://" and has a locked padlock icon in the URL bar. The "s" indicates a secure, encrypted connection.
- Do your research. If a deal from an unfamiliar store seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Be careful with links and emails

- Avoid phishing attempts. Scammers often send fake emails or texts impersonating well-known retailers with urgent notifications about promotions, delivery issues, or order confirmations.
- Don't click suspicious links. Never click on links in emails or pop-up ads from unknown sources. If you're unsure, go directly to the retailer's official website.
- Delete unsolicited messages. Do not click on any links.

Secure your payment methods

- Use a credit card, not a debit card. Credit cards offer better protection against fraud and limit your liability for unauthorized purchases.
- Avoid unusual payment requests. Never pay with wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or gift cards.
- Use secure payment options. Consider mobile wallets like Apple Pay or PayPal, which add an extra layer of security by hiding your credit card information.
- Don't save payment information on retail sites to protect against hacking.

Protect your devices and accounts

- Avoid public Wi-Fi for shopping. Shop from a secure home network or use a virtual private network (VPN) if you need to use public Wi-Fi.
- Keep all your devices and apps updated with the latest security patches.
- Use strong, unique passwords. Use a password manager to create and store complex passwords for each of your online accounts. Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) whenever possible.

After you shop

- Monitor your bank and credit card statements. Check your accounts regularly during the holidays to catch any fraudulent charges quickly. Many banks offer text and email alerts for transactions.
- Save your records. Keep digital or paper copies of your receipts and any communications with sellers to help resolve any issues.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS

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The Importance of Keeping Bylaws Up to Date

This Chairman cannot stress enough the importance of keeping club bylaws current. Bylaws backed by Roberts Rules of Order serve as the foundational rules that govern clubs, defining how they operate, make decisions, and fulfill their missions. If you haven't reviewed your club's bylaws in years, now is the time to act!

Keeping bylaws current is essential for several key reasons:

- **Adapting to Changing Needs** - Society, laws, and the needs of club members are constantly evolving. Outdated bylaws may not reflect current practices or address new challenges faced by clubs. By reviewing and revising bylaws, clubs can adapt their leadership structures, membership policies, and meeting procedures to remain relevant and meet the needs of their members and their communities.

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- ***Maintaining Legal Compliance*** - Nonprofit organizations are subject to federal, state, and local regulations that can change over time. Up-to-date bylaws help ensure that clubs remain compliant with these laws, reducing the risk of legal issues and protecting the organization's nonprofit status.
- ***Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities*** - Clear, current bylaws outline the roles of officers, committees, and members, making it easier to manage the club effectively. This clarity prevents misunderstandings and conflicts, ensuring smooth operations and decision-making. Up to date bylaws can provide a written safety net for club presidents faced with difficult decisions.
- ***Promoting Transparency and Trust*** - Transparent bylaws foster trust among members, donors, and the wider community. When rules are clear and current, everyone involved can understand how decisions are made and how the club operates, strengthening participation and support.

Keeping bylaws up to date is essential for the club's success, legal compliance, and organizational integrity. Regular reviews and thoughtful revisions ensure that the club can thrive, fulfill its mission, and continue making a positive impact on its members and community.