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# ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC  
January 2026



## Happy New Year!



*(Pictured is the NJSFWC Executive Committee )*

The days just seem to fly by, and the CALL for our state convention will be out before you know it.

On that note, be sure to attend your January District Councils, where you will hear more about what we have in store for you at this year's convention!

In the meantime, January is the month when most clubs write their year-end reports to document their past year's projects and fundraisers.

Although the forms will be fillable on the NJSFWC website, please print them out and mail each form to the appropriate Chairman, postmarked by February 1, 2026.

We know all clubs complete wonderful programs and encourage you to share that information with both the community service program Chairman and standing committees.

The Report Writing instructions are on the Website!

There is a copy of all the instructions and forms on the

NJSFWC website, including Where should we report it 2026.

Honor Roll and Order of the Lily forms are also on the website

Deadline this year is March 1, 2026, as all Honors will be presented at each District Spring Conference.

We hope to see more members attending their spring conferences to honor their members.

We hope to see many of you at the January District Council and Program Assistance Day meetings.

Remember, Program Assistance Day is a great way to share and hear about what other programs have been presented to clubs in your district. We will also have listings made by District that can be shared with all clubs.

All Councils will be in person, unless there is inclement weather!

If your club participated in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project, please be sure to send your post to the NJSFWC Facebook page and email this President with your project.

MY 2026 New Year's Wish For You:

12 months of Happiness

52 weeks of Laughter

365 days of Success

8,760 hours of Good Health

525,600 minutes of Blessings

And....

31,536,000 seconds of Joy

Best Wishes,

*Barbara*



**NJSFWC President-elect,  
Susan Chambers,  
chambers@njsfwc.org**

As we welcome a new year, let's continue to examine more of the 2024 Top Ten Leadership Projects to inspire you to write your 2025 Year End Reports.

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede** of the Garden District developed a strong leadership stance in their community by becoming members of several other organizations and this leads to project partnering. The club belongs to the Runnemede Chamber of Commerce which promotes their club on their website; this resulted in two new members. The club also partners with ReImagine Runnemede to revitalize the community. One club member is a councilwoman whose position has been instrumental in the club collaborating on multiple town events. Two other members serve on the town's Board of Education.

The **GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford** of the Garden District held their own Report Writing Workshop via zoom. The President prepared a PowerPoint presentation of 25 slides and appendices. The Workshop included a brief overview of why reports are submitted and the difference between the statistical form and the project descriptions. It was emphasized that using individual Project Report Forms to keep track of each project makes for easier report writing at the end of the year. Time during the zoom call was dedicated to answering questions about where to report projects.

Now that we're in full swing writing 2025 Year End Reports, it's a great time for you to show your leadership skills. Open the lines of communication with all committee chairmen and members; collaborate by encouraging these team members to participate in report compilation; seek their input in gathering and analyzing project particulars. And be sure to let your members know their importance in the success of your club. Because ... **WHAT WE DO MATTERS!**

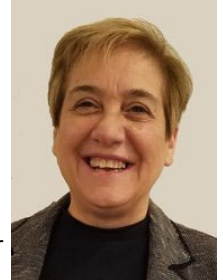
Wishing all of our members a new year of happiness, prosperity, good health, peace and the satisfaction of volunteering to make our world a better place for all!

**GFWC Leads (Leadership, Education & Development Seminar)** program allows clubs to recognize members with the potential and desire to take on leadership positions beyond their clubs. This program, which is held annually the day before the official opening of the GF WC Annual Convention, gives a full day of training, so members gain skills, confidence and commitment to serve higher office. The 2026 Convention will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona.



The application form is included in this ALMANAC . Why not give someone in YOUR club a chance to rise higher?

**NJSFWC First Vice President  
Chris Sienkielewski,  
Sienkielewski@njsfwc.org**



**What is the purpose of writing Annual Reports?**

This is a question that many clubs and their members ask. And there are many answers. GFWC Communication and Public Relations Committee Member, Jeanne O'Sullivan, tackled this same question and here are some of her answers with a little help from this Officer.

Sharing your volunteer activities – not just the statistics – tells your club's story as well as the story of GFWC and NJSFWC, while demonstrating the impact our members have on our communities and the world, which inspires other members.

Accountability: NJSFWC can share the data on our volunteer's impact when applying for grants or when soliciting for donations. NJSFWC solicits for grants for our building improvements, our community programs and Girls Career Institute. The more data we have, the more we can utilize, rather than just state vague claims.

Historical Record Keeping: Ever wonder, "How long have we been doing that project?" or "What kinds of things did we do ten years ago to get the money needed for \_\_\_\_\_?"

The clubs' annual reports and thereby, NJSFWC's annual reports act as a living record of your club's work, preserving details about membership, community projects, and achievements that may otherwise be forgotten.

Sharing Ideas with Other Clubs: Sharing your projects and ideas with other clubs are inspiring to clubs who may need something new.

Media Content: Statistics and project narratives offer ready-made material for press releases, social media and newsletters. It doesn't matter if the project was completed in June and you share it later in the year. A prospective member may read about it just when she is looking to join an organization that meets her needs at just that particular time. Another community organization may be looking to join forces with you, as well.

Awards Entries: NJSFWC awards clubs for their work on a district and state level. All this information is then sent to GFWC from our state for all of the service programs. Imagine New Jersey clubs joining forces with all state federations and showing the impact we are making throughout the world. Because GFWC encompasses many issues and impacts so many aspects of society, we are the oldest women's volunteer organization in the world. And that is something in which we can all be proud and continue to show the true meaning of volunteerism.



**NJSFWC Second Vice President  
Patricia Dahl, [dahl@njsfwc.org](mailto:dahl@njsfwc.org)**

Sometimes a club is having trouble attracting and keeping new members, because of the actions of a few members. Women are not going to want to join your club if the tone of your meetings is adversarial rather than cooperative.

Differing opinions are healthy when presented in a respectful manner, but when club meetings disintegrate into negativity and complaining your membership is going to suffer.

According to *Managing Conflict in the Workplace* by Shay and Margaret McConnon, words can heal or wound, unite or divide and create conflict or harmony. Everyone has a different view on how they see things depending on their personal experiences. Remember opinions are not facts, they're not right or wrong, but points of view. People who feel that their opinions are right will be inclined to see others as the problem.

If you have a member or two disrupting your meetings and your club, you need to open a dialog with them outside of the club meeting.

The first step is to validate their opinion, feelings or intention, This does not mean you agree but acknowledge that their thoughts or feelings are okay.

Next, find out the need behind why they want something. Asking "Why" questions will help you understand the need.

Next, be solution focused by asking what needs to happen. Inviting the other person's solution leads to a sense of power and collaboration. Finally, work on a solution that is win-win for all parties.

You do not want to confront members with accusations and arguments. Acknowledge their statement and then move it in a positive direction.

For example, if a member complains that a meeting is too long you might say: Yes, it did go longer than usual but isn't it nice that our members are so enthusiastic and we are able to work on so many projects. Do you have any suggestions for making the meeting shorter?

If you need further assistance, the GFWC offers a Conflict Adviser to help resolve conflicts within clubs. Requests for assistance or intervention by a GFWC Conflict Adviser should be directed to GFWC Membership Director, Melanie Gisler, 202-347-3168 or [MGisler@GFWC.org](mailto:MGisler@GFWC.org) or postal mail to GFWC Headquarters.

**NJSFWC Treasurer, Linda Carbley  
[carbley@njsfwc.org](mailto:carbley@njsfwc.org)**

**ZOOM TREASURER WORKSHOP – REMINDER!!!!**

Get ready to kick off the new year with confidence! Join this Officer for a **Treasurers Workshop on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM** 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 January ALMANAC** for registration details.

**NJSFWC Financial Secretary, Debbie Cibelli  
[cibelli@njsfwc.org](mailto:cibelli@njsfwc.org)**



**Mega 50/50**

As the New Year begins, we are holding a Mega 50/50 again with the selling concluding at Convention. The winning ticket will be drawn on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the morning session. Last year's winner received \$3,770. Tickets again this year are \$10 a chance. Each DVP and board member will receive tickets to start selling at the January Council meetings. Our goal is to raise more than we did over the last year. Who wouldn't want to enrich their summer fun with all that!

**If you are interested in a book of tickets, please contact this Officer at [cibelli@njsfwc.org](mailto:cibelli@njsfwc.org) or 201-264-6428. When purchasing tickets, please make all checks payable to NJSFWC and put in the memo line "mega 50/50".**

As discussed in a past article, the funds we receive are unrestricted and will go to the maintenance and operations of Headquarters, and the materials and support you receive from NJSFWC.

Thank you in advance for all your support!

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

It's a brand-new year and the women of the College District are getting off to a great start with new programs to learn from and new plans to give to those in need, all in the spirit of camaraderie that makes our clubs so meaningful to us.

**Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** will have a program "In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness" presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Branchburg Woman's Club** will have a program "Virtual Tour of the Jewish Cultural and Holocaust Site" in Paris. Presented by Dr. Catherine Winters Michaud, the daughter of one of their members.

**Bridgewater Woman's Club** will have an elder care attorney speaking on post-Covid changes regarding Medical Directives, Living Wills and more.

**Woman's Club of Clinton** will have a getting-to-know-you activity. They will interview each other in pairs and share their learnings with the club as well as collect for their local Food Pantry.

**Woman's Club of Cranbury** will have a "White Elephant" gift exchange, celebrate Chinese New Year with dinner at a Chinese restaurant, share a soup night and have their holiday luncheon.

**Franklin Woman's Club** will get moving in the new year with a Chair Zumba fitness program.

**Friday Club of Hightstown** will have a program on dance from Emily O'Sullivan, choreographer.

**Hightstown Woman's Club** will share their collections with each other at their monthly meeting.

**Kalmia Club** will have their annual book club meeting and collect for the Delaware Valley Food Pantry.

**Metuchen Edison Women's Club** will have Mary Ann McGuigan, one of their members, speak about her newest book and experiences as a published author. They will also make lunches for Elijah's Promise.

**Somerville Civic League Inc.** will hold a fundraiser, the Great Gatsby Annual Tea, with a performance by Alisa Dupuy.

**Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield** will have a speaker from AARP discussing "Fraud Watch Network, The Scam Landscape."

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

**Gloucester County Women's Club's** members put together 50 Chemo Bags for Unforgotten Haven. The club's "Yarn Chicks" crocheted and donated 20 baby blankets for Wheels of Change. Seventy (70) Fall themed center pieces were made for Cathedral Kitchen, and members will continue making monthly favors for two (2) local assisted living facilities.

**The Haddon Fortnightly** held two (2) very successful fundraisers – Flea Market and Gift Card Raffle. They will host the District's January Day of Service at their club house collecting Sports Bras and personal feminine products.

**The Haddon Fortnightly EMD** held another successful Snowflake Run. They continue to collect fuzzy socks and make-up items for Mothers Matter. Sandwiches were provided to the Cathedral Kitchen. Members will be making fleece blankets for Operation Smile on the Day of Service.

**Marlton Woman's Club, Inc.** donated needed boy's clothing for Little Hands, Little Feet and helped out at the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation's annual Holiday Party for children with cancer and their families.

**Woman's Club of Merchantville** collected 50 handbags filled with feminine products and such for the WOW Center and two (2) food pantries. Note cards, playing cards, greeting cards and calendars were distributed to Nursing Homes. The club will collect soup this month to donate to the food pantries.

**Monroe Township Woman's Club** held a food drive for their local food pantry.

**Woman's League of Mount Holly** filled 83 stockings with 35 going to Military Support and 48 to NJ Cares. The club is collecting broken, unwanted, unused watches or parts which helps disabled veterans learn employable skills to gain employment.

**Woman's Club of Mullica Hill** held a successful drive for "I Support the Girls" donating new and gently used bras along with personal care items.

**Woman's Club of Penns Grove-Carneys Point, Inc.** held a successful Boscov's Discount Card and hoagie sale. Members donated items to the Veterans' Home.

**Woman's Club of Pitman** members took a two (2) hour train ride out of Woodstown enjoying the beautiful Fall colors. Dinner at a local diner followed. The club will hold their Third Annual Spelling Bee for students in Grades 4 and 5 this month.

**Porch Club of Riverton** holds stitchery and Tai Chi classes monthly. This club will hostess the Garden District's Meeting on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Waterford Township Woman's Club** starts the new year by selling tickets for its "Sweet Sensations Dinner and Prize Auction" which is always a sell out and raises a lot of money.

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## **GARDEN DISTRICT, Mary Schneider (continued)**

**Woman's Club of Wenonah** continues their monthly "Book Lovers Affair" reading group. Their program for this month's meeting is "Beauty and Wellness".

**West Deptford Junior Women's Club** continues to sell their "The Real Housewives of West Deptford" 40 oz. insulated tumblers. The club also collects donations to help pay down school lunch balances.

**West Deptford Woman's Club's** held another successful Basket Raffle raising over \$10,000. By mid-January, their goal is to complete 100 Smile Bags for Operation Smile.

**Woman's Club of Woodstown** donated 43 "very full" Blizzard Bags to Meals on Wheels and wrote greetings in over 200 cards for the Veteran's Home in Vineland. Club members also volunteer to staff the desk at the local library two (2) hours every other week.

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

**Highlands District:** Donated 429 stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking

**Blair Woman's Club of Blairstown:** Provided 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.

**Denville-Rockaway Woman's Club:** Conducting a club spelling bee for Rockaway Township, Rockaway Borough, and Denville.

**Hackettstown Woman's Club:** Holding a collection for Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner, a facility that assists homeless veterans transitioning to independent living.

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

**Long Valley Woman's Club:** Organizing a club effort to provide duffel bags for NJ Children's Alliance.

**Long Valley JWC:** In January, holding a blood drive at the Long Valley Presbyterian Church, hosting a program entitled "Mental Health Fireside Chat" with Dr. Peggy Delong at the Long Valley First Aid Squad Building (the public is invited), and holding its annual Spelling Bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Parsippany Woman's Club:** Provided 85 pairs of pajamas to Head Start of Morris County.

**Roxbury Woman's Club:** Holding an event for veterans, launching its high school scholarship effort with communication to local schools, and having a speaker from Operation Chillout at the January General Meeting.

## **HIGHLANDS DISTRICT, Karen Jeisi (continued)**

**Sparta Woman's Club:** At the holiday luncheon, held 'Our Favorite Things' Auction, raising funds to support the activities of the club. Collected \$525 for Operation Smile, J. Thomas Jewelers is matching this donation. Raised \$5800 at the club's annual Game Day Luncheon.

**Sparta Junior Woman's Club:** Participated in the 'Adopt a Family' program and provided gifts for that family. Donated gifts for children to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), formerly DYFS.

**Thursday Morning Club:** In January, holding its annual Scholarship Social to raise funds to sponsor students for GCI and HOBY. 2025 GCI and HOBY recipients will speak at the Social about their experiences.

**Vernon Township Woman's Club:** Providing personalized duffel bags to support 'Bags for Buddies' to replace trash bags used by foster care children for transitions.

**Washington Woman's Club:** Continuing to collect plastic for another NexTrex bench to be donated to the community.

## **LIBERTY DISTRICT**

*The Ladies of Liberty wish you all a peaceful, grateful and happy new year of volunteering!*

**Woman's Club of Allwood** filled 25 Christmas stockings for seniors in lower income housing. They also collected new and gently used coats to all Clifton firehouses to be distributed to the needy.

**Woman's Club of Arlington** enjoyed a speaker from the Lyndhurst Environmental Center. The club's EMD's membership committee provided holiday cards, candy canes and lotto tickets to Meal on Wheels.

**Woman's Club of Belleville** is preparing for their 2025 Poetry Contest for grades 4-7.

**Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** collected toys for St. Joseph Social Services.

**Woman's Club of Caldwell** November meeting featured "To Kazakhstan and Back with Love" about a woman who adopted a child from that country and the ensuing story.

**Cranford Junior Woman's Club** held a Holidays House Tour in their town in December.

**The Woman's Club of Little Falls** November meeting highlighted individual examples of creative arts made by their members.

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## LIBERTY (continued)

**Montclair Women's Club** had their second annual holiday cookie swap, partnered with Montclair Women Over 50. This month they will partner with Montclair Gateway to Aging in Place to answer tech questions.

**Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** hosted author Melanie Rehak who talked about her book "Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her." Their annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift show was a great success.

**Woman's Club of Verona** participated in the town's Fair in the Square early in December.

## PALISADES DISTRICT, Janet Drogo drogo@njfswc.org

This District Vice President would like to welcome the **Woman's Club of Closter** as a member of the Palisades District with 45 members. They are already busy planning a coat drive. This Officer also wants to thank all the District members for donating approximately 376 stockings and \$600 toward shipping.

**Book and Needle Club of Oradell** will have a fundraiser brunch to support the SSP Operation Duffle bag.

**Woman's Club of Carlstadt** participated in Winter Festival and Tree Lighting. They provided paints, and markers for children to decorate ornaments and place on the tree.

**Cresskill Woman's Club** is working on their cookie and candy program filling cans to donate to local organizations.

**Woman's Club of Dumont** will have a program on Elvis Presley presented by Bruce Hammer.

**Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** is busy rehearsing for the Arts Performing Festival and collecting items for the Triboro food pantry.

**Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights** will be making Valentine cards for the veterans.

**Woman's Club of Lyndhurst** is collecting stuffed animals for Alzheimer's patients in nursing homes and books and games for the Paramus Veterans home.

**Woman's Club of New Milford** will kick off their annual ShopRite gift card raffle of \$400.00 in gift cards.

## PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

**Woman's Club of Old Tappan** will present a Joke Night and hold their monthly fundraiser on January 21 at Bosfa.

**Woman's Club of Paramus** will hold a Brown Bag Auction at their regular meeting.

**Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park** is planning a Soup Day with 5 soups to choose from and collecting canned soup for the local food pantry.

**The Woman's Club of Rutherford** is collecting clothes, handbags, and accessories for their annual Pop-up Thrift Shop which will take place in February.

**Woman's Club of Westwood** conducted a Dueling Pianos fundraiser which was an overwhelming success and raised over \$5000.

## RAMAPO DISTRICT, June Witty witty@njfswc.org

**Montville Twp. Woman's Club** has decided on a new Club project and will be collecting affordable recipes to send to our military families overseas. The speaker for January is TBD; the Club will continue to collect shoes for Soles for Souls and will be purchasing snack items for the SSP.

**Pines Lake Woman's Club Inc.** will be preparing report writing and adding up all their volunteer hours.

**Pompton Lakes Woman's Club** will be organizing their standing and serving committees in preparation for report writing. The Vice President and Recording Secretary will host a Report Writing evening for discussion and review on preparing for report writing. The nominating committee will be looking for candidates for upcoming Executive Board openings.

**Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** will have a Brown Bag Auction and the money raised will be used to purchase gifts for their Tricky Tray.

**Woman's Club of West Milford Township** will spend time preparing reports by departments and committees.

**Past President's Club of the 11<sup>th</sup> District** is looking forward to their Annual Brown Auction.

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**SHORE DISTRICT, Karen Osborne**  
**osborne@njswc.org**

The **Woman's Club of Asbury Park** will have their clubhouse closed for repairs for the month of January. They will continue with their projects and are seeking another venue to have guest authors who are releasing books.

The **Woman's Club of Belmar** is continuing with their daytime and evening meetings.

The **Woman's Club of Brielle** made red, white and blue Afghans and blankets which were crocheted or knitted and will be delivered to Menlo Park for new admissions to the facility, along with snacks. They have 2 book clubs (day and evening) and once a year they read the same book and meet at a member's home to discuss and party. A Bunco Party/meeting will be held in January.

The **Woman's Club of Colts Neck** continues to support 180 Turning Lives Around.

The **Howell Women's Club** will be holding a bungee fundraiser, and planning for their Annual SpringTea. The monthly book club is held at the library.

The **Jersey Coast Women's Club** is holding social events and continuing to boost their membership as a newer club.

The **Woman's Club of Lacey** is continuing to hold events for Special Needs Young Adults with the events growing larger with help from the community.

The **Little Silver Woman's Club** members teamed up with a student at the Trinity School in Tinton Falls for a Coat Drive for the poor. The donation included seven bags of coats, scarfs, gloves and sweaters. They continue to work with the military in collecting gowns, evening shoes and purses and costume jewelry.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** holds a monthly games day which is quite successful in helping with the maintenance of their clubhouse. They collect books and other children's items for the Children's Home Society.

The **Woman's Club of Middletown** held "Letters From Santa" and are assembling items for the Visiting Nurses Association. They are holding an International Tasting Dinner for CARE and their scholarship.

The **Shore District Past President's Club** is inviting Past Presidents from all over the state to join in one of their Biannual Meetings.

**SHORE DISTRICT (continued)**

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** will be holding a Chili Supper fundraiser and having a Regifting Auction at their meeting.

The **Woman's Club of Spring Lake** will hold a Chat GPT class in early January. They will take part in Operation Duffle Bag, providing overnight bags for children who leave their homes in an emergency situation.

The **Woman's Club of Stafford** has assembled a group of 36 members to perform in the District Performing Arts Day and they are busy practicing.

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT, Carole Speechley**  
**speechley@njswc.org**

Members of the **Woman's Club of Absecon** collected and distributed 2026 calendars to assisted living/nursing homes in their area. They made and packed bags of cookies for the residents in our area ARC homes. In January, they will collect and assemble items for First Night Kits to give to the local Women's Shelter as the Day of Service project.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** looks forward to hosting the January Council with a variety of their homemade soups. This month's program is making Valentines for veterans in a local nursing home. They will be delivered with a small treat.

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** will participate in the Day of Appreciation for first responders by delivering baked goods to the fire and police departments. They'll hold a fundraiser at Charlie's restaurant with a percentage of dinner profits going to the club. January 22<sup>nd</sup> is their annual spelling bee for fifth grade students at the Middle School..

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton's** January speaker will be the Atlantic County Court Clerk discussing his role and how it relates to residents. They'll begin their poundcake fundraiser to raise monies for scholarships, For the January Day of Service they are collecting and donating items to our local school pantries.

The **Millville Woman's Club's** collected Undies Under the Tree for Veterans at the Veteran's Memorial Home in Vineland. They're collecting hats, gloves and socks for the homeless served by the Help and Hope Ministries.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** is collecting non-perishable foods for the local food bank at their meetings. Their January speaker is from Inspira Health to talk about their LIFE program. Members will enjoy a dried flower/stained glass workshop. They're holding a Blood Drive on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, Kathleen Reddick, reddick@njsfwc.org

Ok, You've put away all your Holiday decorations. It's freezing outside.

Doldrums??? Not for Woman's Club Members. We need to gear up for two big events this month.

**Annual Reports:** This is the only time you are encouraged to be a pest and bother all your members for input for the Arts and Culture Annual Report. Ask them for their hours, costs, and descriptions of all the amazing projects. Don't forget to include all the baking and cooking.

Please make this Chairman's February filled with "can't put it down" reading when she is reviewing your Annual Reports.

- Keep your descriptions short and sexy. Unless you did yours on the Moon, you don't need to describe how the bake sale was organized.
- Include museum and art events your members visited and speakers or workshops that inspired your creativity or taught a new technique.

Check the NJSFWC website under Materials – Annual Reports – for a Zoom workshop to watch and share with your members.

### **Achievement Days projects**

January is the perfect time to dust off those creative dreams and transform them into competition-worthy masterpieces. Now is the time to check the NJSFWC website – materials – Achievement Day and print and study the Supplement. Determine which categories best match your talents.

- Watch some tutorials, attend some workshops, and brainstorm with other creative friends and members. Check out YouTube & Pinterest.
- Identify 2-3 new crafts, skills, or techniques to master this year.
- Fine tune your existing skills.
- Create a month-by-month action plan of progress on your entries.
- Take some spectacular photos. Remember, you must take the photo. Don't submit Volunteers in Action if you are in the picture.

### **Three Questions to Ask When Considering Achievement Day Projects**

- Does this project showcase my best skills?
- Can I realistically complete this project by my District's Achievement Day?

Do I have access to all necessary materials and tools? Research where to find specialty items. Consider borrowing expensive tools from club members.

## ARTS AND CULTURE (continued)

### **Youtube Creative tutorials (skip the ads)**

***I Heart Stitch Art.*** Search YouTube for I Heart Stitch Art for detailed Embroidery instructions from beginner to very advanced. <https://www.youtube.com/@iheartstitchart>

***You call this art?*** Q-tips, combs, scrub brushes, forks, credit cards? What are you thinking? You'll never imagine the finished art from the starting blobs of paint. Check out Jay Lee's unique acrylic painting techniques. Here are two examples. *Warning!* His videos are addictive and hypnotic. Brew a cup of tea, put your feet up for 15 minutes, and enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQmJmdfDCu0&list=RDJwaiZNbps4M&index=3>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grHbGMllpKw>

***Decoupage and Card Making*** Watch these fun and pretty projects. And this Chairman's Mom spent her final years using the professional dress designer creativity to make greeting cards. She had no fancy tools. What memories and experiences led to your craft preferences?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TrJveoiXng>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk4zWksOtwY>

## THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, Ann Ribinsky Brown, brown@njsfwc.org

Happy New Year! These early months of 2026 are sure to be busy ones in the area of Arts Performing. First, an encouraging reminder: all writing contest entries, both student and member, must be mailed to Joyce Dreger, 1046 Lovell Place, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next, this Chairman hopes many of you will prepare acts for your District Arts Performing Day. Remember, the winning acts will get to perform at Convention on the Hard Rock stage in Atlantic City.

The District Performing Arts Days are: Palisades, February 23; Highlands, March 11; Liberty, March 12; Shore, March 23; Southern, March 25; and Garden, March 27. There is still time for Clubs in Ramapo and College Districts to join in the fun. All that's needed is three clubs willing to perform, and a District Chairman. This State Chairman will help you with the rest.

Additional details and sign-up sheets for Performing Arts Day will be available at all January District Councils.

Lastly, be sure to finish up your Arts Performing 2025 Report, quantifying the projects that your club accomplished. Take the time to write about one or two activities that were special, took a lot of time, or were slightly different from the norm. Remember, each Chairman gets to submit to GFWC ten best projects as well as the most creative project in her area. One of these could be yours!

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

Thank you to all the Clubs that donated to, "Operation Holiday Stocking". This year, we collected a total of 2,638 filled stockings, and \$7,240.00 in donations towards the postage. The stockings were picked up by Operation Jersey Cares President, Ted Wurster, who transferred them to the Airforce base that shipped them to active military members overseas! (Operation Jersey Cares is a New Jersey based volunteer organization that supports Active Military Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Please visit their website at [operationjerseycares.org](http://operationjerseycares.org) or you can find them on Facebook.) This program continues to be a success each year and now attracts outside organizations who have also contributed stockings this year! Thank you to The Venue at Smithfield Green for contributing 120 stockings to our program. This Chairman would also like to thank, NJSFWC Treasurer, Linda Carbley and Highlands District CEO Chairman, Elaine Hossfield for all their help receiving and organizing the stockings at Headquarters.

Thank you to all the Clubs that donated wreaths and volunteered through Wreaths Across America! At the time of writing this article, there were 68 wreaths sponsored!

2025 Annual Reports must be postmarked by **February 1, 2026**. Don't delay! Please make sure to include all the projects or programs that your club accomplished in the CEO Community Service Program between January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Please include a narrative that highlights the statistical information. Be sure to showcase at least one project, program, or donation in your narrative that includes a fantastic description! This Chairman looks forward to learning about your Clubs charitable accomplishments throughout the year.

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

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 so, consider becoming a member of the GFWC ESO. (Epsilon Sigma Omicron Society).

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) Sponsor a workshop at your library making bookmarks or crafts?

## **EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (continued)**

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?

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, Dorothy Bernice, bernice@njsfwc.org**

We have talked about conservation of our natural resources we use every day. One area you can consider is natural gas. You just expect it to be there to keep you warm and warm your water for your daily shower. This is an area that people neglect to use prudently. Let's be the people to change that.

1. Have a licensed heating expert inspect your heating system to ensure it is operating efficiently.
2. Change your heating filter every six months.
3. Ensure your heating system and water heater are properly ventilated and clear of obstructions. Blocked vents cause your heating system to work harder using more energy than necessary.

Use caulk to seal any seals and cracks around walks and fixtures.

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## ENVIRONMENT (Continued)

Using these tools may also save you an expensive replacement and lower heating bills.

Make sure to have your sprinkler system turned off and take in hoses and turn off outside spickets to prevent a frozen line from bursting in your house. This can cause enormous costly damage and waste a lot of water.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, Katie Chambers, chambers2@njfswc.org

Happy New Year! To kick off 2026 with some project inspiration, here is the winner of last reporting year's Most Creative Health & Wellness Project:

**Women's Civic Club of Hammonton (Southern District)** won for "Home Safety for Women." Hammonton's police chief attended one of their club meetings to talk about safety in your home. Topics included home decor like placement of rugs, furniture arrangement, steps and staircases, tile floors, etc. He discussed what increases risk of falling and what you should do if you are alone and you fall. He also talked about front door safety, internet safety, solicitation, and locking up every day no later than 9 PM. A smart, forward-thinking discussion of preventative measures to ensure club members' health and wellbeing.

The winter months can be an especially taxing time for those suffering from food insecurity. If your club is looking to donate to your local food pantry, remember to prioritize healthy choices over inexpensive ones. Often, those in need sacrifice more nutritious options in order to simply buy what they can afford. Shelf-stable, healthy items for donation include:

- ◇ Oils, vinegars, and spices as an alternative to fatty salad dressings
- ◇ Shelf-stable milk for coffee or overnight oats
- ◇ Dried fruits and nuts
- ◇ Whole grains such as brown rice, quinoa, oats, and barley
- ◇ Low-sodium chicken, beef, or vegetable stock (as opposed to broth)
- ◇ Easy -to-prepare proteins like beans or canned fish

**January's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving:** Too cold to venture outside for exercise? No problem! Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can be done while sitting or using a chair for support, making it accessible for all fitness levels. It helps improve flexibility, balance, and circulation while reducing stress and tension. Regular practice can boost energy and focus, making it an excellent option for workplace wellness or daily self-care. You could even try a few minutes of chair yoga at your next club meeting!

## ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN, Marie DiMatties, dimatties@njfswc.org

This Advocates for Children wishes you and your families a safe and healthy 2026! She looks forward to reading your reports and is especially interested in reading the narratives about the events and activities your club sponsored to raise awareness of Advocates for Children Month in October.

Last month, this Chairman asked if your club is collecting aluminum pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Did you know the value of the pop tabs depends on the market price for aluminum? It typically ranges from about \$0.40 to \$0.55 per pound and takes approximately 1,100 -1,128 pop tabs to equal one pound. What happens to the pop tabs we collect? They are sold to a local recycling company which turns them into cash which goes directly to help Ronald McDonald House which provides a place to stay for families with sick children. Lyn Hrycenko delivered **147.43 Pounds** of tabs to Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick. That number does not include what other clubs are donating to a Ronald McDonald House in their own area!

Can you imagine the impact our clubs can have with one simple act of removing the pop tabs from cans that have them?

## CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION, Carole Thompson, thompson@njfswc.org

### REGISTERING FOR THE 132ND NJFSC CONVENTION May 3 – 6, 2026

On Saturday, February 14, 2026, the CALL TO THE 132nd ANNUAL CONVENTION will be prepared for mailing to the President of each General Club, State Organization, and Affiliate Club, and to each Member-At-Large, State Board Member and Past State President. Each envelope will include a copy of the "Official CALL".

The envelope will include the following:

- Registration and Meals Form listing all registration fees and meal costs.
- Hotel Reservation Information Sheet and directions to the hotel
- Voting Registration Form
- Checklist to aid the presidents in completing the proper club registrations.
- Other necessary information.

**Reminder to Club Presidents:** Please immediately check the contents of the envelope containing the CALL to be sure you have all the necessary forms. If you have any questions concerning the contents, contact either this Chairman or NJFSC Headquarters. Do not wait until Convention in May. Any errors or omissions must be resolved before the deadline for Registration and Meal Reservations by April 5, 2026.

## CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION (Continued)

**Delegates and Alternates:** The number of Convention Delegates and Alternates to which your club is entitled is designated in the NJSFWC BYLAWS – ARTICLE XI, SECTION 11.2 and is stated on the Voting Registration Sheet. When completing this form, be sure to list the names of both Delegates and Alternates. **No on-site registration for Delegates and Alternates will be available at Convention.** Should it be necessary for an Alternate to serve as a Delegate, this change can only be made by the Credentials and Registration Chairman at the Convention Registration Desk.

The EMD Chairmen will NOT receive the CALL to Convention. If your club has an EMD, it is the club's responsibility to share the information in the CALL with your EMD and provide the Department with an opportunity to be included in your voting delegation since the EMD membership is included in the total membership of your club. Representation is based on membership as recorded in the State Yearbook. All of your Delegates and Alternates, including any EMD members, MUST be listed on the Voting Registration Form and their Delegate/Alternate fees MUST be included with your Advance Registration and Meals Form. A check from the EMD will be accepted but must accompany the club's Registration and Meals Form.

**IMPORTANT:** The President and Recording Secretary of the club must sign the Voting Registration Form.

**No Delegate or Alternate shall be registered to represent more than one Club or Organization.** Therefore, if a member of your club serves on the State Board of Directors, she is considered a Delegate from the Board of Directors and may not represent your club. She will handle her own registration through the State Board. If one of your members is registered as a Delegate or Alternate from another club, such as Past Presidents Club, she cannot represent your club. However, if she wishes to sit with her General Club for meals, her registration fee should be recorded and paid under the Past President's Club, but her meals should be recorded and paid under her General Club. In these circumstances, a note should be attached to the club's Advance Registration Sheet to alert the Chairman.

The Registration fee for Delegates, Alternates, Members, Visitors and Non-Members is \$50 if **POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 5th** and no later than April 12th will be \$60 each (\$50 and \$10 late fee). The Daily Registration Fee of \$30 (\$30 if postmarked after April 5th and no later than April 12th) is available for members or visitors who can only attend for one day.

All Registration Fees and Meal Reservations should be paid with one club check payable to **NJSFWC Annual Convention** earmarked **Credentials and Registration.**

## CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION (Continued)

This form should be completed with all fees for registration and cost of meals. Remember to include the District, Name of Club, and name and telephone number of respondent. The Advance Registration Form should be returned to the Credentials and Registration Chairman with a copy retained for your club records. If any changes to the banquet meals are necessary due to health or dietary restrictions, a note detailing the necessary changes should be attached to the Advance Registration Form.

**No meal changes will be accepted at Convention.** Any changes must be made no later than April 12, 2026. **Absolutely no reservations will be accepted after April 12, 2026.** Early Registrations are encouraged.

Please read all instructions carefully and comply with the deadlines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this Chairman at [thompson@njsfwc.org](mailto:thompson@njsfwc.org) or (609

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

This time of the year is when scammers call. Beware of whose phone calls you answer by watching your caller ID. When answering, give NO personal information. Even saying YES will allow you to be scammed. Please pass this information to your members. It is important to stay safe. Pass this information to your members. Do not download software or pop-up unsolicited information.

Report everything to NJCCIC or FBI's IC3 by calling 1-833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311) to help recover lost fund from these scams.

Human Trafficking in the United States happens to over 1,091,000 people. It is a \$236 billion (yes Billion) criminal industry. GFWC is working on ending trafficking by education awareness and programs to rescue and provide aftercare support through all communities.

Elder abuse happens all over the U.S. Unfortunately, people are put in rehab facilities or nursing homes and never visited by family members. Clubs can ask the local facility about these people and take time to visit or donate a gift or thinking of your card.

The Second Chance forms are on the website under Materials/Signature Project.

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## GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE, Ellen Lund, lund@njsfwc.org

As a reminder the 2026 GCI dates are Monday, June 1 to Thursday, June 4. Although it is preferred to start on a Sunday, Rutgers Summer Programs do not begin until June 1<sup>st</sup>. These dates were selected keeping that in mind. The earlier dates will not interfere with final exams and prom dates.

This Director will speak at the final three District Council meetings in January. A Staff meeting will be held in January to continue our GCI planning.

She has already received tuition funds from 8 clubs. Again, a reminder that all tuition funds must be post marked no later than January 31.

All GCI materials are being updated and will be online soon.

All Delegates and Alternates must complete the online application by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

You may send as many Delegates as you wish to sponsor but only submit the name of one Alternate. Please make sure your Delegates and Alternate know what Club is sponsoring them.

It is the responsibility of the girls to make sure their school allows them to miss class for those four days.

This year deadlines will be strictly enforced. If you have any questions, please contact this director at [lund@njsfwc.org](mailto:lund@njsfwc.org).

## HEADQUARTERS, Adrienne Fowler fowler@njsfwc.org

This Chairman is happy to report that the Open House on both Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> and the November 15<sup>th</sup> were a huge success.

On Thursday, this Chairman along with her committee of six helped in accommodating over 60 people who attended the Open House. Several Board Members as well as Executive Committee Members were there to talk about what the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club stands for. We also had an Executive Member give a tour of our historic building.

On Saturday, more than 25 members attended the Open House. While there was no official tour, several Board Members walked around showing and explaining the pictures in our halls, meeting room and in our library.

Barbara McCloskey, President of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club gave a wonderful talk on both days

## HEADQUARTERS (Continued)

about how our organization came about and all it entailed. A short quiz was given out afterwards with everyone getting an almost perfect score.

This Chairman is happy to say that everyone had a most enjoyable time. She was approached several times by members stating that they had learned new things about our Headquarters building, how our organization came about and what we stand for. It was a friendly way for new members and "old" to learn new things. There is still time to donate to the 1894 Society! The deadline is March 31, 2026.

## HISTORIAN, Randi Quilici quilici@njsfwc.org

**A Happy New Year to All!** A new year means a new beginning, and a great opportunity to reflect on all your club has accomplished!

From **January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025**, let's take a moment to recap your achievements using the [Women's History Report Writing Form](#).

Did your club:

- Donate to the **NJSFWC 1894 Society**, which helps fund the annual rent paid to Rutgers University, or to the **GFWC 1734 Society**?
- Document your club history with **articles, interviews, scrapbooks, or games**?
- Archive your records, **digitize files**, or create a link to them on your club website?
- Celebrate a club **anniversary**?
- Research the **GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC)** or visit **GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.**?
- Donate **books about historical women** to libraries or schools?
- Highlight **National Women's History Month** in your newsletter or with a special project in March?
- Visit **NJSFWC Headquarters** for a tour, event, or workshop? Donate to the **Pin Collection** at Headquarters?

If your answer is "yes" to even one of these questions, your club has already made an impact! We often forget just how much we contribute to our shared club history.

This Chairman looks forward to reading your reports. Please don't minimize your accomplishments. A few thoughtful sentences describing your initiatives and activities can make a real difference.

History is a legacy left to us, and we have the responsibility to continue the story, to keep it alive and not let it fade. Share your club's achievements to inspire others.

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## HISTORIAN (Continued)

Your club history report might even be among the **Top Ten** reported to GFWC!

Please mail your report by **February 1, 2026**, to: **Randi Quilici**, 129 Glimmer Glass Circle, Manasquan, NJ 08736.

Thank you for preserving and celebrating your club's history!

## HONORS, Cheryl Fairchild , fairchild@njsfwc.org

The deadline for the Cecilia Gaines Holland award is February 1, 2026.

This award is presented annually to one clubwoman in recognition of her outstanding civic activities and accomplishments over and above her Federation involvement. This is the highest honor that the NJSFWC can bestow on a New Jersey clubwoman.

Once a club has established their nominee, they should prepare a 300-word resume in outline form, type in duplicate, double spaced describing the applicant's Civic activities and accomplishments. Then attach a cover letter signed by the Club President and/or Recording Secretary containing the nominee's name, address, phone number and email address, as well as the Club name and the District. Forward the resume and cover letter to [m.marion@live.com](mailto:m.marion@live.com) no later than February 1, 2026. Please remember that the selected nominee is required to attend the banquet at Convention in May to receive this award.

More information on the Cecilia Gaines Holland award can be found on the NJSFWC website under Materials-Honors, Awards, and Achievements

## LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

### Jacqueline Wisner, wisner@njsfwc.org

Mikie Sherrill, New Jersey's newly elected Governor, arrives in Trenton this month with a focused "Affordability Agenda." Many of her top priorities align closely with long-standing NJSFWC resolutions and advocacy efforts, making this an ideal moment for Federation members to amplify their voices.

To start, Governor-elect Sherrill's commitment to gun-safety reforms mirrors the NJSFWC's continued support for stronger gun laws to reduce violence and protect communities. The Federation's advocacy for comprehensive women's health care also aligns with Sherrill's pledge to enshrine reproductive freedom in the state constitution and ensure insurance coverage for reproductive health services.

## LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS (Continued)

Environmental stewardship—central to the NJSFWC Environment CSP—is another area of strong alignment. Sherrill's proposals to expand solar energy, develop battery-storage capacity, and modernize the electric grid reflect the Federation's dedication to energy conservation, renewable resources, and habitat protection.

Through its Health & Wellness programs, the NJSFWC has long championed efforts to reduce homelessness, support affordable housing, and combat food insecurity. These goals directly support Sherrill's plans to increase housing supply, streamline permitting, build "missing middle" homes, and expand school nutrition programs. Her focus on restoring trust in government, strengthening transparency, and holding institutions accountable further echoes the Federation's commitment to civic engagement and responsible governance.

So how do we make sure our voices are heard? Well, it's 2026—106 years after the 19th Amendment affirmed women's right to vote—so let's be bold.

One of the easiest and most effective tools is the GFWC Legislative Action Center (LAC). The LAC provides timely email alerts on legislation related to GFWC's mission and allows members to contact elected officials with just a few clicks. Registration is simple at: <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/>. Encourage your club to mobilize around specific bills, share legislative updates in newsletters, and motivate members to send messages in support of issues they care about.

Clubs may also organize a Legislative Visit or Virtual Meeting with their Assembly member or Senator—especially if they serve on key committees such as Commerce, Judiciary, or Community Affairs. Prepare a concise "ask," such as: *"Please support A5264 to lower solar-permitting costs,"* and attend with a small, well-prepared delegation of club members.

And don't underestimate the impact of a well-timed Advocacy Letter to the Governor-elect's Transition Team. This is a strategic moment for NJSFWC clubs to highlight how their resolutions align with the Governor's agenda and to urge her to prioritize passage of key bills within her first 100 days.

Now that's a New Year's resolution worth making—and acting on.

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## **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS, Linda Hrycenko Hrycenko@njsfwc.org**

The deadline for nominating a candidate from your club to the NJSFWC Board of Directors for 2026-2028 had to be postmarked by January 6, 2026. Fortunately, if your club missed the deadline, there is still an opportunity to nominate a candidate!

According to our bylaws, a club can nominate a candidate from the floor of the convention. To do this, a club must fill out a "Floor Nomination Form" and submit it to the Recording Secretary, Jean Revis, by midnight, May 3, 2026. The form can be found on the NJSFWC website.

The nomination form asks for the written consent by the sponsoring club (signatures of the president and recording secretary) and the consent from the candidate.

Please feel free to contact Lin Hrycenko at (732) 406-3983 or [hrycenko@njsfwc.org](mailto:hrycenko@njsfwc.org) if you have any questions.

Remember, if you follow the bylaws, your club still has an opportunity to nominate a qualified candidate for the Board of Directors of the NJSFWC!!

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

As you meet during the months of January and February, please consider a new project for the New Jersey Children's Alliance - 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. You can also decorate the outside of the bag, if you wish.

Complete information and instructions about the contents within this ALMANAC entitled NJSFWC SPECIAL STATE PROJECT. The flyer is also on the NJSFWC website under Special State Project. Duffle Bags can be brought to designated CAC Centers, as designated on the flyer or to Headquarters BEFORE March 10.

Any questions can be sent to this Chairman at the above email.

## **WEBMASTER, Denise Hosier, webmaster@njsfwc.org**

### **What Is AI?**

There has been a lot in the news about AI lately, and AI answers have begun showing up when you ask Google a question. So here's a little information to keep you up to date on what's happening. AI, or artificial intelligence, is the simulation of human intelligence in machines, enabling them to perform

tasks like learning, reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

### **Here are some positive ways AI can affect us in daily life:**

- It can create personalized experiences. AI powers personalized recommendations on streaming services, personalized advertisements, and smart assistants like Siri and Google Assistant.
- AI can help us with communication and work. Tools like Grammarly use AI to improve writing, while AI helps optimize personal finances through spending trackers and budget tools.
- It enables smart devices. AI is integrated into many devices, including smartphones and wearable health monitors, to track activity and improve user experience.

### **But AI also creates the possibility of negative societal and ethical impacts:**

- AI can slant information and social dynamics. Its algorithms on social media influence the information we see, which can affect public opinion and discourse.
- It affects employment by replacing humans in some jobs. AI automation is altering the job market, raising questions about job displacement and the creation of new roles.
- In the areas of privacy and bias, AI use in surveillance and diagnostics raises concerns about data privacy and the potential for perpetuating bias.

AI can have both positive and negative impacts on our lives. At its best it will function as a collaborative tool that enhances human capabilities, leading to a "human-in-the-loop" model where humans work alongside AI to achieve better results.

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## PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS

Roberta Dyrsten, [dyrsten@njsfwc.org](mailto:dyrsten@njsfwc.org)

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – with an assist from email

In the past, the minutes of the previous meeting were read to members prior to approval. With the use of email becoming more widespread among our members, reading the minutes at meetings is no longer necessary or required. **Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (12<sup>th</sup> edition)** specifically provides for minutes to be distributed to members in advance.

Many of our clubs email draft minutes to their members prior to their meetings. (If some members do not have email, printed copies may be made available to them at the registration table before the meeting).

Because minutes serve as a written record, distributing a draft to members provides everyone with the opportunity to review them thoroughly. Members can then note any corrections

before the meeting or send their suggestions in advance to the recording secretary.

This process provides for a more precise consideration of the minutes than having them read aloud. It also saves time at meetings – an added bonus for members!

### **From Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (12<sup>th</sup> edition):**

*(41:12) The secretary's draft of the minutes is often sent to all members in advance of the meeting at which those minutes are to be approved, usually with the meeting notice. When this has been done, it is presumed that the members have had an opportunity to review these draft minutes, and they are not read at the meeting unless a member requests it.*

## YEARBOOK CHANGES

### Page 205

#### **Arlington, Woman's Club**

Change: Treasurer: Celia McAllister  
459 Riverview Avenue  
North Arlington, NJ 201-723-3415

### Page 207

#### **Montclair Women's Club**

Add: Liz Lynch, Co-President  
56 Broad Street, #516  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
Tel: (973)444-2827  
[haigney.search@gmail.com](mailto:haigney.search@gmail.com)

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#### **Peninsula Woman's Club**

Email Changes: Denise Pszonek, President  
[pszonek@gmail.com](mailto:pszonek@gmail.com)  
Kim Guluzzy, Treasurer  
[guluzzy@optimum.net](mailto:guluzzy@optimum.net)

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#### **Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights**

Patricia Link, President  
Telephone Change: (201) 665-9272