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# ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

February 2026



## Happy Valentine's Day!

February is also the national campaign month to raise awareness about women's heart health.

We take so much time to volunteer to help others. Now is a good time to take some time for yourself. Review your risk factors, and possibly make some changes in your lifestyle.

Thank you to all the clubs that submitted the annual report forms by the February 1, 2026 deadline.

- This President is excited to hear, see and read all about your projects and fundraisers for the past year.
- Please share and brag about your accomplishments with your members, so they know how much your club has accomplished over the past year.

The February 15 deadline for Convention Ads for the 2026 Convention Book is fast approaching. The forms were in the January ALMANAC. All clubs and members are eligible to submit a Convention Ad.

The Credentials and Registration Committee has been hard at work putting together the CALL to Convention, and Presidents should receive the CALL in early February.

- Please review all deadlines and share the information with all your members. You may be surprised that someone new may wish to attend!

## What do you think of the new format for the ALMANAC?

**A huge thank you to the office staff, who spent time creating a new look!**

On that note, please continue to encourage your members to periodically visit the NJSFWC website and take the time to read the monthly ALMANAC.

All this information is made available to support all the members and is a benefit of membership.

In Friendship,

*Barbara*





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

Now that your 2025 Report Writing is concluded, let's take a final look at the remaining top ten Leadership projects from 2024:

The **Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** of the Palisades District encourages leadership and activity participation through strong communication with its members who are encouraged to express opinions and offer suggestions. The club has a monthly newsletter and via email distributes information to all members through the e-Connections, ALMANAC and GFWC News and Notes. Members are given an agenda for each meeting and have been instructed on proper meeting procedures. Members are encouraged to take on responsibilities of the club. Sign-Up Genius is used to schedule volunteers for projects. During a Bylaws review, Standing Rules were adopted for the first time.

The **Woman's Club of Ramsey** of the Ramapo District created a Governing Committee when no one member would step up to become President. After consultation with their District Vice President, the five most active members formed the Committee, agreeing that they would share and rotate responsibilities.

The plan was voted on and accepted by the membership and the bylaws amended to allow for the new configuration. The five Committee members worked out a schedule in which they took turns conducting meetings and taking minutes. The new structure has made the club meetings more interesting, which they feel has revitalized the club and led to attracting new members.

The **Woman's Club of Brielle** of the Shore District held a Women's Leadership Conference that was interactive and thought-provoking. It explored strategies for personal growth, professional development, networking and community engagement. The event was open to the public at the Brielle Public Library, with a registration fee of \$25. There were two featured women speakers: one, a club member, is the President and CEO of her own company (Women's Unlimited, Inc.) and another who is an Integrated Wellness Coach. \$1000 was raised for a club scholarship to which the club added \$1500 for a total scholarship of \$2500 given to a Lehigh University student. The event was so successful that a second conference was held in March 2025.



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

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

We are now in the second month of 2026 and it is never too early to start planning for December, 2026, when NJSFWC will be asking you to send in your reports for all the work you have done throughout the year. No need to become anxious because you can be a LEADER WITH A PLAN!

Instead of finding yourself scrambling to put together all your statistics, you can begin to make a master list NOW for all the projects you will do throughout the coming months. Get a notebook and write one project at the top of a page a clip a few pages together. Plan the tasks for that project, leaving space for the details. Be sure to write the date/month for each project. This one simple idea will make it so much easier to set goals for each task, Write names of members who are helping with the project (along with their contact information). Leave room after each name to write in their volunteer hours. Don't forget to include a page for that project which includes any in-kind donations and even fundraising tasks. Imagine how easy it will be when the project begins and the time spent in writing everything down will make life easy when doing the 2026 reports.

Make this one simple plan your club's New Year's Resolution and this Officer promises you will thank her later!

**Be sure to sign up for the  
Leadership Workshop scheduled  
for March 5 at Headquarters.**

**See the flier attached for details.**

**RSVP to President-elect, Susan  
Chambers at [sagachambers@aol.com](mailto:sagachambers@aol.com)**

**Get tips on helping your members  
become leaders!**

**All members are welcome.**





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

On the website there is a Member Recognition form for anyone who is celebrating 25 or 50 years in Federation. Also, on the form there is a section for any member of your club that has brought in two or more members during the club year! Include all that meet these qualifications. If needed add an additional page.

After completing the form, please submit it to the NJSFWC Second Vice President/Membership Chairman, Patricia Dahl, 576 Dew Court, Blackwood, 08012 or [dahl@njsfwc.org](mailto:dahl@njsfwc.org) by **March 20<sup>th</sup>** as the awards will be given out at your District Spring Conference.

Do you have a **Procedure** you follow with Prospective members when they come to your meeting?

Some clubs have a policy they follow. Consider some of these suggestions:

- Have a designated greeter to welcome them at the door.
- Provide nametags when they arrive.
- Have them sign in and ask them to complete a Membership Profile (created by the club).
- Introduce them to a few members so they feel welcome.
- Possibly have a mentor previously established.
- Welcome them during the meeting.
- If refreshments are available at the beginning of the meeting, offer them to help themselves.

Remember to thank them for coming and ask if they have any questions before they leave.

Follow up with them after the meeting with a phone call, email or a handwritten note. Making that connection with the club will encourage them to come back.

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

Thank you to all the members who participated in the ☺ Zoom Treasurer Workshop in January and making it a fun evening learning new tips and asking questions. We all can learn from one another. A special thank you to Shelley Rothstein NJSFWC Communications Chairman for her assistance with the slideshow presentation.

**Just remember: TREASURERS ACCOUNT!!!!!!**

Any questions on the Treasurer's Duties, please contact me at [carbley@njsfwc.org](mailto:carbley@njsfwc.org).

**Stay tuned for a Treasurer's Workshop at Convention in May!! Hope to see you there!!**

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

This Officer wishes to thank all clubs who submitted their Reports for Fundraising. These Reports are an important part of your club's history. They provide ideas for future leaders to refer to when wanting to repeat or try another successful event.

The Reports are a useful tool to share your accomplishments with all NJSFWC members and evaluate if the fundraiser was a success and/or what might need to be changed. Maybe one "fun"drasier will resonate and your club will be interested in replicating it as these Reports will be compiled for the top ten fundraisers and will be shared with all of you.

Remember as you complete each fundraiser, keep track of the project on the Project Report Form.

When it comes time to fill out the Report Forms, you will have all the necessary information in one place. If you haven't used one, you can find a sample on our website-njsfwc.org. Choose Materials.

Click on Annual Report Forms and Instructions, scroll down to Project Report Forms for Clubs and click on the form as well as the Project Report Explanation. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to email this Officer at [cibelli@njsfwc.org](mailto:cibelli@njsfwc.org).



**Don't forget to pick up your Mega 50/50 tickets!**

**Last year's winner received \$3,770. Tickets again this year are \$10 a chance. Each DVP and Board member received tickets to start selling at the January Council meetings.**

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".



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

Winter weather has not stopped the College District from supporting their members and their community!

**Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** will enjoy their annual Games Day at their February meeting and have a Bakeless Cake Sale fundraiser.

**Branchburg Woman's Club** will hold its annual "Re-Gifting Auction" at their monthly meeting.

**Bridgewater Woman's Club** will have a program "Black History in Somerset County" as well as a Theater Party Fundraiser featuring the play "Bachelors of Broadway" at Raritan Valley Community College.

**Woman's Club of Clinton** will be filling Valentine bags with candy and snacks for Veteran's Haven North and collecting cards made by local school children for Meals on Wheels.

**Woman's Club of Cranbury** will enjoy a presentation of "Cooking with Spirits" and are making Valentine's Day cards for the Rehabilitation Center.

**Franklin Woman's Club** will have a program "Carol Simon-Levin presents Emily Warren Roebling and the Brooklyn Bridge."

**Friday Club of Hightstown** will have speakers on Apollo gardening and the future of landscaping.

**Greater Brunswick Area Woman's Club** will be making hearts for the Peyton Heart Project.

**Hillsborough Woman's Club** will celebrate Valentine's Day with different items made with chocolate.

**Kalmia Club** will be supporting Arm and Arm Period Poverty as well as having a workshop on Ukrainian Eggs by one of their members.

**Metuchen Edison Women's Club** will have celebrated author and club member Mary Ann McGuigan speak about how she writes and her latest book "That Very Place."

**Somerville Civic League Inc.** will hear from their GCI candidates from 2025 as well as recycling old costume jewelry during their meeting.

**The Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township** will be offering Tai Chi demonstrations for members to learn and experience its benefits. They will also hold workshops in preparation for upcoming Board elections.

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

**Gloucester County Woman's Club** partnered with a local bakery and held a successful cookie sale in time for the holidays. The club adopted three (3) families with a total of nine (9) children. The club will be putting together two (2) duffle bags with all the necessary items this month.

**The Haddon Fortnightly** gift card raffle was a huge success raising \$4,000 plus \$264 in donations. The Reading Buddies program resumed at a local school, meeting the second Tuesday of each month. To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America, the club partnered with The Indian King Tavern Museum and presented a program on January 10<sup>th</sup> at their meeting place.

**The Haddon Fortnightly EMD** had 617 runners show up for their annual Snowflake Run. The funds raised go to Jackson's Wish. The club will hold a "Bingo Frenzy" on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Marlton's Woman's Club** helped at Boscov's this past holiday season by taking photos with Santa and wrapping gifts. In January, they held their local Spelling Bees involving the Evesham Township School District, and the winner(s) will participate in the Tri-County Spelling Bee this month. The club will be working on the Duffle Bag project.

**Woman's Club of Merchantville** had a successful holiday candy sale.

**Woman's League of Mount Holly** continues to collect broken, unwanted, unused watches or parts for a program focused on helping disabled veterans learn employable skills to gain employment. The club is currently working on a Designer Bag Bingo and Basket Raffle to be held this year. The club will have a speaker from the SJ Ronald McDonald House this month.

**Waterford Woman's Club** will hold their annual "Sweet Sensations & Prize Auction" on Friday, February 22 at Lucien's.

**Woman's Club of West Deptford** donated 50 pounds of used crayons to the Crayon Initiative where they are recycled into new crayons and distributed to children in hospitals. The club also made a number of Birthday Cake kits for their local food pantries. The club partnered last month with St. Paul's Methodist Church to host a Red Cross blood drive. This month the club will host their annual "Galentine's Day Pollyanna" and have a Dessert Night at a local diner.



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

**Denville-Rockaway Woman's Club:** Baking cookies in February for Cheshire Home, a rehab center for young adults with spinal cord and other neurological injuries. Holding a club Spelling Bee in February for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from schools in the Rockaway Borough and Township and Denville Township.

**Hackettstown Woman's Club:** In February, sending cards to veterans at Veterans North Haven in Glen Gardner, a facility that assists homeless veterans transitioning to independent living.

**Hopatcong Woman's Club:** Made 25% of dinner sales at fundraiser at Panera. Delivering snacks and juice boxes to Ginnie's House (Children's Advocacy Center) in Newton.

**Long Valley Woman's Club:** Holding its annual Antique Show on February 28 at the Long Valley Middle School. This is the club's major fundraiser.

**Long Valley Junior Woman's Club:** In January, held a successful blood drive. Held its annual Spelling Bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on January 9.

**Parsippany Woman's Club:** Provided refreshments for the Highlands January Council meeting. At the January General meeting, had a speaker from NJ Sharing Network discussing organ and tissue donation. Held its annual club Spelling Bee on January 26.

**Roxbury Woman's Club:** Held a social event in January for veterans. Baking cookies in February for a Valentine's celebration for Roots and Wings, an organization which works with those who have aged out of the foster care system.

**Sparta Woman's Club:** Celebrating 'Heart Healthy Month' in February with speakers from the Sussex County Department of Public Nursing. Contacting local schools asking for candidates for GCI and for scholarships for graduating seniors.

**Thursday Morning Club:** Hosted the Highlands January Council meeting at the Madison Community House. Held a successful Scholarship Social to raise funds to sponsor students for GCI and HOBY. The 2025 GCI and HOBY recipients spoke about their learnings and fun they had at each program.

**Vernon Township Woman's Club:** Program at the February General Meeting is Soothing Paws Therapy dogs. The Homework Club is a new service program held Tuesday afternoons where members tutor students one on one to help them complete their homework.

**Washington Woman's Club:** Finished collecting 5,000 pounds! of plastic and secured their 5<sup>th</sup> bench. Sponsoring 'Some Enchanted Evening' on April 6; info to follow on ticket sales.

**West Morris Junior Woman's Club:** On January 24, held its 30<sup>th</sup> annual Spelling Bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**LIBERTY DISTRICT, Susan Chambers**  
chambers@njsfwc.org

**The Woman's Club of Allwood** had a very busy December with a fundraiser at Uno Pizzeria, the monthly social at the Senior Center (where admission supports the Power of One), and making 24 Christmas stockings filled with snacks for seniors at lower income housing and moms in the shelter Hope Through Care. Their December meeting, presided over by the VP Jean Rudolph, featured a musician and fun gift game.

**The Woman's Club of Arlington EMD** donated 2026 calendars, puzzles and crosswords to two local long-term care facilities. They've made gift bags for Mercy House Spring Giveaway Baby Shower Event and also recognized Martin Luther King Day in January.

**The Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** enjoyed a fall presentation on bird migration by a speaker from the New Jersey Audubon Society.

**The Women's Club of Caldwell** collected women's and children's pajamas and made 35 holiday gift bags that were donated to Oasis – a Haven for Women and Children in Paterson. Members also visited Crane's Mill to help residents make holiday cards to send to family and friends.

**The Woman's Club of Little Falls** has a monthly Let's Go group that visits places of interest in the area followed by lunch. The club graciously hosted the January Council and Program Assistance Day at their Clubhouse.

**The Women's Club of Maplewood** donated \$396 worth of in-kind donations to Isaiah House in East Orange along with two no-sew blankets, two children's holiday themed fleece blanket throws, a warm fleece woman's sweater and a girl's sized sweater all purchased during after-holidays sales last year. They also donated five no-sew blankets and five hygiene bags to Family Promise.

**The Montclair Women's Club** February meeting will feature author Kim Coleman Foote whose debut novel "Coleman Hill" is based on her real-life family, set in Vauxhall, NJ and follows three generations in an unconventional Great Migration narrative. In March, the club will host a presentation on Thriving with Confidence in Menopause and Beyond.

**The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** held their Hodge Podge Party in January that celebrates Halloween, Fourth of July, Easter, Thanksgiving, Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day all in one! Donated wrapped gifts worth a minimum of \$20 are auctioned off with proceeds going to an upcoming project.

**The Woman's Club of Verona** continued their smart marketing campaign by posting individual thank you notices on their Facebook and Instagram pages to local merchants who supported their giant luminaries fundraiser "Share Your Light Night." Each thank you featured the donor's name, logo and pertinent info.



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**PALISADES DISTRICT, Janet Drogo**  
[drogo@njsfwc.org](mailto:drogo@njsfwc.org)

**Book and Needle Club of Oradell** is collecting ShopRite gift cards for Center for Food Action.

**Woman's Club of Carlstadt** will be filling Valentine's gift bags for recipients of Meals on Wheels in the local communities. The program for their February meeting will be a Trivia Night.

**Cresskill Woman's Club** is collecting supplies for SSP Duffel Bag project and will host a local ukulele group at their February meeting.

**Woman's Club of Dumont** filled two duffel bags for NJCA and will hold a brown bag auction to benefit their scholarship program.

**Woman's Club of Englewood** will present a program on the "State of the Constitution".

**Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** is busy planning for their annual Military Bridge fundraiser which will be held in March.

**Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights** will have three members performing at the District Performing Arts Festival.

**Woman's Club of Haworth** will be filling Valentine treat bags with cookies and candy for Eva House.

**Woman's Club of Lyndhurst** is celebrating their Galentine luncheon at Bruno's pizzeria on February 13 and will hold their annual Mardi Gras celebration on February 17 with dinner, basket raffles and a super 50-50.

**Woman's Club of Maywood** will be playing bunco on February 20 at the Maywood Senior Center.

**Woman's Club of Old Tappan** will be baking 3 dozen cookies to donate to the Northern Valley Adult Daycare Center in Dumont for Operation Cookies and Candy.

**Woman's Club of Paramus** is planning a Paint and Sip Party, Spring Bunco and a service project with Friendship House.

**Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park** will hold their Galentine's Day tea at High Societee Tea Room in Wayne on February 13<sup>th</sup>. At their February meeting they will be making St. Patrick's Day tray favors for Bright Side Manor.

**RAMAPO DISTRICT, June Witty**  
[witty@njsfwc.org](mailto:witty@njsfwc.org)

**Montville Township Woman's Club, Inc.** assembled various snack food items for Deidrea House, collected assorted newborn donations for Birth-Right, and knitted caps for homeless Veterans.

**Pompton Lakes Woman's Club** is looking forward to their February 5, 2026 meeting, which is their Annual Brown Bag Auction with the money going to the local Food Bank.

**Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains'** February meeting will feature the clubs' game night, and trivia related to Valentines' Day will be the selection. In addition, the club will host a speaker from The Birding Store who will present birds and foods to attract various birds and bird houses for year-round pleasure.

**Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey** will be working on preparing for their grand Evening of Icons Gala in March, which honors women of Ramsey in categories of education, business, service and one overall Icon of the year.

**Woman's Club of Ramsey** is excited to welcome back the Lunch-Brunch and greet 9 new members into their Club. This club has a Military Bridge fundraiser planned for the spring.

**Woman's Club of Ridgewood** will organize and sponsor their town's Annual Garage Sale. Donations for SOS to provide the house with a Valentine Dinner including gifts are underway.

**Saddle Brook Woman's Club** planned a Valentine Cookie Swap; about 70 boxes will be assembled and the profits will go to the Saddle Brook Senior Center. In addition, they will prepare about 50 Valentine bags for residents of Care One.

**Woman's Club of West Milford Township** will be making cookie bowls which will be delivered to Meals on Wheels to be distributed to seniors and shut ins. In addition, this club will be hosting a gallery style medium, Catherine McCall; tickets are \$50. Call their President for details.





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

The **Woman's Club of Asbury Park** has open play for mahjong once a week and continually collects for Fulfill Food Bank.

The **Woman's Club of Belmar** now hosts a monthly evening gathering at the Belmar Public Library, offering an alternative for those who cannot attend the traditional afternoon meetings.

The **Woman's Club of Brick Township** will have Galentine Bunco and donate money to the American Heart Association.

The **Woman's Club of Brielle** has ongoing collections for the Friends of Monmouth County Children's Alliance Center and Tower Clock CDC. Their day group is making crafts for a local nursing home while the evening group is making Valentines for veterans. The Crafty Chicks are making costumes for Brielle's school play.

The **Howell Women's Club** is holding a Bungee Fundraiser on February 1<sup>st</sup> at Bounce Studio.

The **Woman's Club of Lacey** is holding their Calendar Club Raffle with 6 drawing dates. Each drawing provides a \$500 prize and four \$100 prizes.

The **Little Silver Woman's Club** has been very successful with The Veteran's Watchmaker Initiative. A thank you goes out to all Federation sisters who made this cause for disabled soldiers such a success. Almost 200 watches have been collected with more coming in.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** will have a February program on how to create a Facebook page to be given by their own Facebook guru, Lisa Stein. They will be holding a Valentine's Day get-together as well as decorating coffee cans to fill with cookies/candies for the St. John Food Pantry for an Easter treat as well as creating Easter baskets for the children at 180 Turning Lives Around.

The **Woman's Club of Middletown** will be making no sew blankets for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.

The **Shore District Past President's Club** is looking for you to join a relaxing atmosphere. They meet twice a year with the next meeting in March. Contact President Gwen Lewis.

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** will be holding their annual Blood Drive for Heart Month and a Paint and Sip Event for members to bond and enjoy each other's company along with some wellness activities.

The **Woman's Club of Spring Lake** is planning their Annual Galentine Luncheon and organizing a Snowbirds event in Florida as a meet up for members who escape the cold for the winter months. They have weekly line dancing and Irish dancing.

The **Woman's Club of Stafford** is very busy practicing for Performing Arts Day with a total of 36 members.

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

**Woman's Club of Absecon** ended 2025 laying wreaths on graves at two cemeteries on Wreaths Across America day and welcoming two new members. In January, items for the First Night Kits for the Atlantic County Women's Center were donated and assembled for Day of Service. In February they'll make Spring Conference centerpieces.

**Women's Community Club of Cape May** will be distributing the Valentines they made and some treats to Vets in local nursing homes. Their speaker for February is Deborah Brash, Executive Director of Caring for Kids, in Cape May Court House.

**Country Shore Woman's Club** celebrated the holidays at Vincenzo's in Smithville and enjoyed the light show in Smithville Village afterward. In January they held a Penny Auction at the Second Cape May Baptist Church in Marmora with the proceeds benefitting local food banks.

**Colony Club of Ocean City** held their annual Spelling Bee for fifth grade students at the Middle School in January. In February they will hold a fundraiser at Mario's restaurant, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the club.

In February, the **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** will have their heart healthy meeting with members dressed in red and serving healthy snacks. The guest speaker is a physical therapist who will discuss strength training for women and why it is important for aging women.

**Millville Woman's Club** held their annual Soup and Salad Luncheon. They'll hold their annual Valentine's Luncheon this month.

**Woman's Club of Vineland** received the 2025 Gloria Noto Service to Veterans Memorial Award by the United Veterans Council. The certificate reads "The United Veterans Council presents this token of appreciation in recognition of the outstanding service, compassion, and dedication you provide to our Military Veterans."





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

Reading your Annual Reports was so interesting. Once again, this Chairman was astonished at our member's creative talent. Thank you for all your hard work throughout the year and for completing the Annual Reports. Good luck to all the clubs in the District and State Awards.

**Get Busy!** Your District Achievement Day in March or April is around the corner. Check the NJSFWC website and download the Achievement Day Supplement and District Applications. It's time to finish all your projects or start a new one. Encourage your club sisters to get creative and enter in the Spring Achievement Days. It's time to put the pedal to the metal!

**Celebrate Galentine's Day** on February 13 with a Crafty Brunch. *Because of you, I laugh a little harder, cry a little less, and smile a lot more.* It's all about honoring female friendships and appreciating the important women in your club, who have become your BFFs. Galentine's official color combo is Red and Pink. Drape a pink scarf over your red sweater and you're good to go. Decorate with flowers; have fun with Galentine's Day-themed décor; have a clothing swap; and make humorous greeting cards to exchange. Don't be afraid to add some heart-felt words of appreciation. Challenge everyone to bring a heart-shaped or a red food or beverage. (I bet you'll wind up with a lot of Merlot.) Include a crafting session at your Brunch. Can you think of a beautiful or comical craft that will leave you laughing? Take photos to enter in the Volunteers in Action Achievement Day category. Remember, the focus is on celebrating friendship and good times, so pick activities that you think will resonate best with your group! We get family by chance, and our friends by choice.

### **Top Ten: Here's one more of the Ten Top Projects Statewide from the 2025 Achievement Day**

**Liberty District:** The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair learned that a long-time member was a self-taught, award-winning printmaker. The member held an exhibit and workshop of her printmaking and oil painting work, to which the public was invited. Several members volunteered to try their hand at printmaking and went home with a treasured art work. She was able to sell several pieces at the event and donated 20% to the Club. This project exemplifies the importance of drawing on the creative talents of our members, who may not brag about themselves. Printmaking is a unique and interesting technique that is out of the box for most artists.

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

Thank you for all your excellent reports. There were many outstanding projects and trips recorded, which we will pass on to GFWC.

As spring approaches, so, too, does your local school district's theatrical productions. Call your high school now for further information. Offer to place an ad in their program, which will both support the student production and get your name out to the community.

Find out if anyone in your club has behind the scenes experience that she would like to share and volunteer her time. Gather a group of club members to attend the production. Many of the high school musicals rival those of Broadway!

This Officer would love to have you participate in your District Performing Arts Day. But if you choose not to perform, come for an enjoyable day, and help select who will represent your District on the Hard Rock Stage at Convention.

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

Thank you to all the clubs that completed their reports and for all the descriptive narratives that accompanied them. This Chairman was thrilled to learn about the fantastic projects and programs that all of our clubs accomplished this past year!

Let's celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence! Clubs can honor our history and heritage this year through projects or a program that embraces American history. Just search, "Celebrate America 250" and several fantastic websites come up that were created for this special occasion. At [whitehouse.gov/america250](http://whitehouse.gov/america250), you can learn about America's Independence history along with stories about our founders through informative short videos. Another website, [america250.org](http://america250.org) is collecting and sharing stories about Americans, encouraging volunteering including ways to participate, and encouraging all Americans to participate in the celebration. The website also has links to events throughout the year that may be taking place near you. For ideas to help you celebrate, you can download, "The America250 Playbook: Our Journey to 2026" which contains programs being held throughout the nation that may help to inspire you to create your own local program.

Other ways to celebrate this year could be to locate a historical landmark near you and plan a trip for your club to visit and volunteer there. Many of the organizations that are tasked with the preservation of them are always looking for some extra help. Lastly, visit RevolutionNJ at [revnj.org](http://revnj.org) for a little something different. There you will find events held throughout New Jersey from Battle Reenactments to pop up Tavern Talks programs.



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## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY

**SERVICE PROGRAM**, Joan Murdock,  
[murdock@njsfwc.org](mailto:murdock@njsfwc.org)

Thank you to every club who submitted a Year End Report! This Chairman can't wait to read about everything you accomplished this year.

Our ***Between the Book Club*** members have been busy sending book reviews to this Chairman. Here are a few of the reviews...

Joani George from the Woman's Club of Absecon submitted a review on ***The Bohemians*** by Jasmin Darznik. This is a work of historical fiction that allows the reader to become immersed in a different time. The fictional accounts of these real women highlight their strong characters and fill in what may be the missing pieces that have been lost in history. The reader will be transported to 1918 San Francisco in all its glitz and dreadfulness.

Our next review was submitted by Carol Long from the Cresskill Woman's Club who read ***Once Upon A Time in Dollywood***, written by Ashley Jordan. "Playwright Eve, reeling from a personal tragedy retreats to the Tennessee mountains for solitude. Jamie, a single dad has his own baggage. Their initial reluctance gives way to a deeper connection as they navigate their past traumas and learn to embrace vulnerability."

The **Hightstown Woman's Club Book Club** read ***Becoming Madam Secretary*** by Stephanie Day. The Clubs' review: "Excellent writing—captured intimate feelings of historic characters. It guided us through a woman's journey to realize her life's calling struggling to make right horrific wrongs committed on working people. Facing obstacles personally and politically the author gave us insight to the powerful, the poor and a woman in history at its' best."

The Margaret Yardley Fellowship flyer and applications have been mailed to colleges/universities in New Jersey.

The Margaret Yardley Fellowship Fund provides fellowship grants to deserving women who are New Jersey residents pursuing post-graduate advanced studies at the school of their choice. If you know anyone who might be eligible for this Fellowship Fund, please go to our State Website, Materials, Education and Libraries for more information and application forms.

Application forms are due to this Chairman by March 1, 2026.

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

This Chairman has initiated a no plastic policy for items in the Environment Portion of Achievement Days. Since there was a mistake on our online Supplement, we will allow the flowers to have stems and stamens to be plastic.

There are many ways to make all kinds of items without using plastic and you can find tutorials on YouTube. There are many kinds of paper, silk, felt, and candy flowers. If you are not crafty; try looking at the Etsy platform for other ideas. There are many creative people on that site who make beautiful flowers. Make sure you buy from American crafters and this will do two things; eliminate the use of plastic and help keep small businesses flourishing,

Now that we are in the midst of the cold weather. Make sure your windows are not leaking warm air into the outside and letting cold air in. The utilities are charging more. It will be cost effective to have your gas company come in and do an all-house evaluation. It is free and they sometimes come up with simple solutions to bring down your bill.

Because there are days you will want to stay in from the cold, it is a perfect time to organize a household hazardous collection with your local services to ensure these dangerous materials are disposed of properly.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, Katie Chambers, [chambers2@njsfwc.org](mailto:chambers2@njsfwc.org)

Thank you to all who submitted your 2025 Health & Wellness year-end report. This Chairman has enjoyed reading about your activities.

Remember, mental health and emotional wellbeing are just as important as physical health – in fact, they are all connected. In honor of Valentine's Day, this Chairman and GFWC encourage you to check out the "Choose Love Movement." This non-profit teaches skills like courage, gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion-in-action to create safer, more connected schools and communities. Its programming is based on the vision of Scarlett Lewis, who lost her son in the Sandy Hook tragedy. This free curriculum (Pre-K to 12) provides tools for managing emotions, building resilience, and responding to adversity with love, extending into programs for homes, athletes, and communities.

Creating flyers and in-person programming for schools in honor of the "Choose Love Movement" is a wonderful way to give back to the community. You can even become a trained ambassador through their program. Learn more at <https://chooselovemovement.org/>.



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Continued)

**February's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving:** This Chairman hopes that you have all enjoyed the Let's Get Moving challenge. Since this program – or a similar one – might continue into the next administration, you are encouraged to keep tracking your exercise hours in the coming months. At the very least, it's good for your heart!

It's chilly outside, but you can keep moving indoors. Those who use a treadmill might have heard of the 12-3-30 workout, which has taken social media by storm! This is a safe, low impact way to gently raise your heart rate without breaking a sweat. Simply set your treadmill incline to 12%, set your speed to 3mph, and walk for 30 minutes. Be sure to include a 5-minute warm up and cool down for safety.

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

This month thoughts turn to LOVE! What better way to show your love than to help lift the spirits of children in difficult or stressful situations. Organizations that help low-income families, foster care organizations, shelters and youth centers have children who could use an expression of love to warm their hearts.

Create **Art Kits** for children in shelters or in underserved schools. The kits can include such items as colored pencils, markers, journals, coloring books, small personal whiteboards, kinetic sand, glitter glue, stickers, stones to paint and colored paper.

#### **Make Valentines**

Create Valentines at a workshop with your members and deliver them to the organization of your choice, providing an opportunity for members to tap into their creativity and socialize with other members. It will warm their hearts as well. Perhaps you could even provide heart shaped cookies or other treats!

Last year, **Pompton Lakes Women's Club** donated 25 hearts made of flannel and 12 blankets to the Preemies of Carolina. A packet containing two hearts, a blanket and a poem is available to anyone in the nation. The mother wears one heart and the other is placed with the baby. After 24 hours, the one the mother has is placed with the baby so the baby can have the mother's scent. The baby's heart is placed with the mother to bring home her baby's scent with her.

This Chairman has enjoyed reading your year-end reports and has been amazed by the kindness, generosity, and creativity demonstrated by your club members implementing projects under Advocates for Children.

## **COMMUNICATIONS, Shelley Rothstein, Rothstein@njsfwc.org**

This Chairman would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all the clubs that completed their year-end reports and to those who entered the Newsletter, Pressbook and Scrapbook contests. The submissions this year have just been fabulous!

This month's Communications information comes from the GFWC CEO Chairman:

Collaboration is one of the hallmarks of GFWC throughout the United States and our international affiliates. The resourcefulness of clubs in finding and using community relationships to fulfill our civic commitments is amazing. Collaboration requires bonding among organizations. Some examples include bonding over a common goal, such as building a community park, bonding over a recognized community need, like working together on a community food drive or bonding over a simple need for help, such as asking another group to help check in racers at a 5K race.

Effective collaboration results in awareness, motivation, participation, reciprocity, and engagement. The more the word is spread about the need, the more other groups will step forward to help. Once an organization helps your club, your club is more likely to help them with one of their projects. Good collaboration leads to long-term partnerships among community organizations.

In its simplest form, even the most basic level of collaboration allows your club to achieve more, in less time and with less effort.





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## **COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM Jean Battaglia, battaglia@njsfwc.org**

Assistance was given to maintaining a local museum. A community garden was created in a vacant lot. A speaker's forum was held to bring the community together to learn about grant funding, fundraising and more. Projects to support a foster care youth home and programs to raise community awareness of the youth foster care system were implemented. Local landmarks were added to highlight prominent local women in a community's history. A computer room was added to the upgrades in a local youth training facility.

What do these things have in common, you ask? They are pieces of the six winning projects from the last GFWC Community Impact Program contest period. Now, just having finished your year-end reports, you are saying, "we did something like that," or "that sounds like a project we talked about expanding on in our community." Perfect! Because the next two-year contest period started on January 1 and by capturing all the work from the start, in two years you will be ready to complete the application and submit your project for an award. Take a project that will help solve a need in your community, that may take extra preparation and overcoming significant obstacles or where you realize it can be improved if you partner with another community organization. All of these are factors that make an ideal project to submit for a Community Impact Award.

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 for the current contest period, which ended on December 31, 2025, 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. The state winner will be announced at the Annual Convention in May. Thank you to all the clubs who submitted entries. You and your communities are already winners.

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

Plan to be at the Sunday night festivities at Convention. This year we will be honoring our State President, Barbara McCloskey, as well as our President-elect and Vice-Presidents. Lots of surprises await you and we hope that you can join us.

- Back by popular demand will be DRUM2BFIT which will take place on Monday morning or, you can walk the Boardwalk with President McCloskey at 7:00 am.

## **CONVENTION (Continued)**

Also on Monday morning, entries for Arts and Culture and Environment can be registered in Brighton Ballroom. Don't forget to visit our Vendors who will be located in Brighton 1.

- Before the Opening Session, join Second Vice President, Patricia Dahl, for a Workshop, "Bring a Friend, Make a Friend".

The Opening Session of Convention will take place in the Hollywood Ball Room at 1:30 PM. This year we will be voting on Bylaw Changes and Legislation Resolutions.

The evening festivities will be held in the Hollywood Ball Room when we honor our Women of Achievement. Our Audio Visual costs last year amounted to over \$16,000.00 and in order not to raise the price of meals, the Committee is planning a new and fun addition to Convention. Thirty Designer Handbags have been generously donated and will be available as a silent auction.

The bags will be filled with gift cards and this is where you can help. We are asking members and clubs to donate these gift cards that will be placed in the bags. The fun is that you can't peek in the bag so the winning bidder will be in for a surprise when she opens the bag.

Gift cards can be given to your DVP or sent to HQs before April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please note the donor's name and club along with the cards. Please contact this Chairman with any questions at [finn@njsfwc.org](mailto:finn@njsfwc.org). More next month!

## **CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION, Carole Thompson, thompson@njsfwc.org**

### **REGISTERING FOR THE 132nd NJSFWC CONVENTION – May 3 – 6, 2026**

On Thursday, February 12, 2026, the CALL to the 132nd ANNUAL CONVENTION will be prepared for mailing to the President of each General Club, State Organization, Affiliate Club, State Board Members and Past State Presidents by the Credentials and Registration Committee.

The January ALMANAC explained in detail all the information needed to register for Convention. Please read all information carefully and adhere to the deadlines when submitting your club's form.

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR ALL FORMS  
WITHOUT A LATE FEE IS APRIL 5, 2026.** Forms



## CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION (Continued)

postmarked between April 6th to April 12th must include the appropriate late fees. **Registrations postmarked after April 12th will not be accepted.** No exceptions!

**Your careful attention while completing the Registration Form is very important for both the Registration and Credentials Committee and you.**

Even if you have not received the CALL by now, you can still start to plan who your delegates and alternates will be so that once the CALL is received, the registration form can be completed without delay. Here's how you know how many delegates your club may have:

### **IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS: THEN YOU MAY HAVE:**

49 or less - 4 Delegates and 4 Alternates  
50 – 149 - 6 Delegates and 6 Alternates  
150 – 249 - 8 Delegates and 8 Alternates  
250 or More - 10 Delegates and 10 Alternates

**IMPORTANT:** No delegate or alternate can represent more than one club or state organization. Club presidents should send the number of delegates allowed for their membership size to the Convention and encourage all other members to attend. Attending Convention will present new experiences and create wonderful memories.

### **Responsibilities of a Delegate:**

- We want each of our delegates that attend Convention to enjoy all the activities Convention has to offer. Keep in mind that being a delegate entails some responsibilities that need to be taken care of before, during and after Convention.
- **Before Convention**, all necessary Credential and Registration Forms should be completed and signed and sent in by the deadline. All material regarding the business to come before Convention will be mailed to the Club Presidents. Any proposed changes to the Bylaws will be included with the CALL and any Proposed Resolutions will be in a separate mailing.
- It is the Club President's responsibility to make sure their delegates receive a copy of this material so they may have the necessary information in preparation for Convention.

Ideally, the material should be presented to the Club and any controversial issues should be discussed. The delegates should arrive at Convention fully informed about how their club feels on issues and act accordingly. Delegates are free to vote as they see fit on any matter unless they have been instructed otherwise by the club.

## CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION (Continued)

**IMPORTANT:** All Delegates, or the Alternates replacing them, **MUST be registered by 10:30 AM on Tuesday in order to vote for NJSFWC Board of Director Members.** This is stated in the Official CALL and is necessary so that the Credentials and Registration Chairman can get the list of registered Delegates to the Nominations and Elections Chairman before the close of the Tuesday Business Meeting when voting begins.

During Convention the delegates should attend all business meetings as well as any informative workshops. The delegates should take an active role in deliberations of the assembly and take part in the vote.

After Convention the delegates should report back to the club. This report may be oral, written or both. It should be an informative report on the business that transpired at Convention.

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

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

First and most important thank you all for the wonderful reports. Each is read and calculated for the Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention year-end report.

Please pass information to your members that Congress needs to be encouraged to pass S1442 Combating Trafficking in the Transportation Act S2196 and HR4166 The Strengthening Protections for Domestic Violence & Stalking Survivors Act. We need to protect public safety, women's health, digital exploitation. By encouraging the passage of these bills, we can strengthen advocacy efforts and ensure legislative priorities.

### **HISTORIAN, Randi Quilici [quilici@njsfwc.org](mailto:quilici@njsfwc.org)**

Thank you for your 2025 Club History reports that have been received and are being read with enthusiasm.

This Officer would like to share a brief look back at the administration of Dorothy T. Weinheimer was, NJSFWC President from 1970 to 1972. Her theme, drawn from *A Collect for Club Women*, was: "Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed." She was nominated by the Rahway Woman's Club and was also a member of The Woman's Club of Westfield.

During this period, NJSFWC shifted from the long-standing Headquarters-building project to a new focus on community service. The Special State Project selected was support for



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## HISTORIAN (Continued)

the Volunteer Program at the New Jersey Training School

for Boys at Skillman. Clubs across New Jersey contributed generously, providing a playground plaza with picnic tables, outdoor grills, carpeting for a dormitory, books, games, subscriptions, craft supplies, clothing, concert tickets, and monthly birthday cakes. The project's motto captured its purpose: *"Help that boy today, to find his way."*

In 1971, the Fall Conference at Douglass College, held on a Saturday to include working women, centered on "A Better Environment for Women." President Weinheimer spoke on leadership, noting that leaders are made through experience and must sometimes "eat her own words," swallow pride, resist flattery, and welcome criticism.

Several significant milestones marked this administration. At GFWC's request, the Federation investigated the Croly Family plot, resting place of Jennie June Croly, "Mother of the Women's Club Movement," ultimately securing perpetual care. Recently, GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, and Past State Presidents Ann Quinn and Mary Pat Marcello visited the site, sharing fabulous photos on NJSFWC Instagram.

The Federation also continued its tradition of member trips, including a 1971 trip to London that strengthened the treasury. In Civics and Legislation, NJSFWC received a Commendation from Governor Cahill for its work on the Wetlands Act, and more than 600 members attended the Legislative Luncheon in Trenton.

President Weinheimer later reflected: *"The presidency...is a challenging, stimulating, broadening, exciting experience."* Her words still inspire our work today.

A great suggestion as a club outing is to visit the gravesite of Jennie June Croly in Lakewood, NJ.

## LEGISLATIONS & RESOLUTIONS, Jacqueline

Wisner, [wisner@njsfwc.org](mailto:wisner@njsfwc.org)

In recent months, the **GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Committee** has issued **multiple Legislative Alerts** in support of key federal initiatives addressing human trafficking, maternal health, and infant well-being—issues that directly intersect with ongoing legislative priorities in **New Jersey**.

One alert supported the **Trafficking Survivors Relief Act**, bipartisan legislation unanimously approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

## LEGISLATIONS & RESOLUTIONS (Continued)

This measure would allow survivors of human trafficking to seek expungement of certain criminal convictions incurred because of coercion by

traffickers. Survivors are frequently forced into crimes such as financial fraud, drug-related offenses, and identity theft and are frequently prosecuted without recognition of their victim status. Senate passage of this legislation would help dismantle barriers to recovery and reintegration into society.

New Jersey is a recognized leader in combating human trafficking, with laws emphasizing victim identification, survivor services, and coordinated law enforcement responses. Federal passage of the **Trafficking Survivors Relief Act** would strengthen New Jersey's efforts by allowing survivors to clear federal criminal records for crimes committed under coercion. Removing these barriers supports survivors' ability to obtain housing, employment, and education—key goals already prioritized by New Jersey policy makers.

Additional alerts supported the **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act**, which expands research, education, and intervention strategies related to pre-term birth, and the **Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act**, aimed at reducing maternal mortality and improving health outcomes during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. The United States continues to experience one of the highest maternal mortality rates among developed nations. Each year, more than 30,000 women suffer life-threatening complications during labor and delivery. In 2024, nearly 380,000 pre-term births were reported—representing a 10.4% increase since 2014—with pre-term birth accounting for 35.8% of infant deaths nationwide.

New Jersey has prioritized maternal health equity through task forces, data collection, and programs addressing racial disparities in maternal mortality. Federal reauthorization of the **PREEMIE Act and Preventing Maternal Deaths Act** would expand research, funding, and best practices that directly support New Jersey's ongoing initiatives.

In summary, the shared goal of the GFWC and New Jersey is to reduce re-victimization, remove legal barriers to survivor independence and to support our families with healthier pregnancies, safer births, and reduced disparities. Club members are encouraged to engage in these advocacy efforts through the **GFWC Legislative Action Center**, (<https://www.gfwc.org/legislative-action/>), learn more about the issues, submit resolutions and inform members during meetings.



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

The following nominations have been received for positions on the NJSFWC Board of Directors for 2026 – 2028 term.

### **Trustee to serve as**

President-elect – Chris Sienkielewski  
Nominated by GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club  
First Vice President – Patricia Dahl  
Nominated by Gloucester County Woman's Club  
Second Vice President - Debbie Cibelli  
Nominated by the Woman's Club of Paramus  
Second Vice President – Linda Carbley  
Nominated by the East Brunswick Woman's Club  
Recording Secretary – Joan Murdock  
Nominated by Saddle Brook Woman's Club  
Corresponding Secretary Jean L. Revis  
Nominated by GFWC/NJSFWC Past State President's Club  
Treasurer – Linda Hrycenko  
Nominated by the Greater Brunswick Area Woman's Club  
Financial Secretary – Laurel Dobalo  
Nominated by Metuchen Edison Women's Club  
Vice President College District – April Shoemaker  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township  
Vice President Garden District – Cheryl Fairchild  
Nominated by Woman's Club of West Deptford  
Vice President Highlands District – Dorothy Prisco  
Nominated by Long Valley Woman's Club  
Vice President Highlands District – Joan Garbarino  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills  
Vice President Liberty District - Jean Rudolph  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Allwood  
Vice President Liberty District - Vivien Finn  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Upper Montclair  
Vice President Palisades District – Shelley Rothstein  
Nominated by the Woman's Club of Paramus  
Vice President Ramapo District – currently no candidate  
Vice President Shore District – Kathleen Reddick  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Spring Lake  
Vice President Southern District – Myrna Crawford  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Vineland  
The Arts and Culture Community Service Program – Adrienne Fowler  
Nominated by Metuchen Edison Women's Club  
The Arts/Performing Community Service Program – Joyce Dreger  
Nominated by North Brunswick Woman's Club  
Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program – Christina Burlew  
Nominated by Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook  
Education and Libraries Community Service Program – Randi Quilici  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Brielle

## **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (Continued)**

Environment Community Service Program – Rose Marie Woodruff  
Nominated by Woman's Club of Lyndhurst  
Health and Wellness Community Service Program - Kim Otto  
Nominated by The Haddon Fortnightly

All Club Presidents will receive the Call to Convention. In the packet there will be the Candidates Qualifications Booklet that has the bio and picture of all the candidates that have met the January 6, 2026 deadline. Candidates that completed the "Floor Nomination Form" will be included on the ballot, but not in the booklet. Delegates should read the information in the booklet to get acquainted with the candidates running for positions as trustees.

To vote, an attendee must be pre-registered as a voting delegate by their club. Not all members attending the Annual Convention are allowed to vote for a contested trustee position unless they are a delegate, i.e. there is more than one person running for an office. Voting will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2026. Directions and the actual room for voting will be in the program you receive when registering at the convention. At the time of the election, delegates will sign in to enter the voting room and cast their ballot. Please refer to the convention's program for additional information.

Please feel free to contact Lin Hrycenko at (732) 406-3983 or [hrycenko@njsfwc.com](mailto:hrycenko@njsfwc.com) if you have any questions. This Chairman wishes the best of luck to all the nominees.

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

Hopefully your club will join Operation Duffle Bag – a new project for the New Jersey Children's Alliance. Clubs can donate an overnight duffle bag that will be used for children who leave their homes in emergency situations. The bags can be filled with the suggested items and each bag should be labeled with the gender and age of the child:

- Pajamas (infants through Adult XL)
- Sweat suits (infants through Adult XL)
- Socks
- Towels
- Flip flops or slippers
- Personal Care and toiletry items (toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, hair ties, etc.)
- Blankets, diapers, wipes
- Activity books, reading books, pencils, etc.

We ask that your club donate 1-2 bags, which can be dropped off at Headquarters – no later than March 10. Clubs can also call their local office and ask if the bags can be dropped off there. If you have any questions, please contact this Chairman at the email address above.



## PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS,

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

### Duties of the Bylaws Committee

The bylaws of a club (*often organized as a 501(c)(3)*) should be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they reflect the current needs and practices of the group. To accomplish this, a **Bylaws Committee** is appointed (as stated in the club bylaws). The president is usually designated as an ex-officio member of the committee and should be included in all meetings.

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for maintaining the governing rules of the organization and ensuring they remain clear, current, and compliant. Duties of the Bylaws Committee include:

#### 1. Review and Maintain the Bylaws

- Regularly review the bylaws for clarity, consistency, and relevance
- Ensure the bylaws reflect current practices of the club
- Identify outdated, conflicting, or unclear provisions

#### 2. Recommend Amendments

- Propose changes when needed due to:
  - Changes in laws or nonprofit regulations
  - Organizational growth or restructuring
  - New programs, committees, or officer roles
- Draft clear, precise amendment language

#### 3. Ensure Legal and Procedural Compliance

- Confirm bylaws align with:
  - o State nonprofit laws
  - \*IRS requirements (if applicable)
  - \*If the club is a 501(c)(3) organization, confirm that the club continues to file all necessary paperwork to maintain its status.*
  - o The club's Articles of Incorporation
- Ensure procedures comply with parliamentary authority (*Robert's Rules of Order*)

#### 4. Oversee the Amendment Process

- Ensure proper notice is given to members for proposed changes
- Verify voting requirements are met
- Confirm adoption of amendments is correctly recorded

#### 5. Maintain Official Records

- Keep the official, current copy of the bylaws
- Ensure updated bylaws are distributed to officers, board members, and membership as required

#### 6. Advise on Standing Rules and Policies

- Recommend whether matters belong in the bylaws, standing rules, or policies

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS (Continued)

Help prevent bylaws from becoming overly detailed or restrictive

### What the Committee Does Not Do

- Enforce bylaws (that is the role of the board or president)
- Change bylaws unilaterally
- Make operational decisions unrelated to governance

**WEBMASTER, Denise Hosier, [webmaster@njsfwc.org](mailto:webmaster@njsfwc.org)**

### Time to Enter our Website Contest!

Submit your intention of entering the competition by emailing the NJSFWC Webmaster ([webmaster@njsfwc.org](mailto:webmaster@njsfwc.org)) during the month of February (1-28). Websites will be judged between March 1 and March 15.

- In the 'Subject line' of the email, reference 'NJSFWC club website competition.'
- In the body of the email, include your club name, contact person, the 'link' to the website, and whether it is a free or paid site. A free site means you are not paying for hosting or anything other than a domain name.
- NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

### Rules for Submission & Judging:

1. Club name and NJSFWC of GFWC must appear on home page.
2. District, Club President, and contact information must appear in a clearly defined site menu choice. (ex: About Us or Contact Us).
3. Website may continue to be updated after the competition deadline date.

### Judging: Websites are judged based on the following five criteria:

1. Rules above are met (Club name, NJSFWC of GFWC, District, Club President and contact information)
2. Presentation/design
3. Ease in navigating through the site/page
4. Federation Information
5. Useful and pertinent information for club members & prospective members

### Judges will use their own discretion as to awards given.

1. Each item is judged on its own merit.
2. Scoring will not be provided.
3. Comments will be provided to the club by the judges upon request.

**Awards:** This is a statewide competition with certificates presented at Convention for First, Second, and Third Place. If there are enough entries, there will also be an award for Best Free Website. Certificates will not be issued at the District level.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: February 28.**