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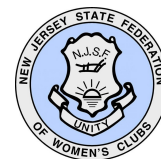


# ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

April 2026



how much time and energy was spent in completing their projects, programs and fundraisers.

**GFWC Federation Day is April 24<sup>th</sup>.** Why not take a moment to visit the [GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org) website and share some information with your members?

Let's unite our voices and celebrate this amazing Sisterhood of Service on April 24, Federation Day, and continue the celebration throughout Volunteers in Action Week, April 24-30, 2026.

This will be my last President's Message for the ALMANAC. It has been an honor and a pleasure to write a message to you each month, and share what has been happening, and what plans are being made to support you, the members.

- On that note, this President would like to thank all the clubs and members that donated towards the 1894 Society this year. Whether it was because we are celebrating 60 years at our Headquarters building or you were all just being generous, the total raised far exceeded the \$21,000 needed for this year's lease payment to Rutgers!
- Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- May 1st is the actual day in 1966 that the Headquarters building was formally dedicated, and over 300 women attended the dedication!
- There are still S & H Green stamp pins available, so there is still time to make your \$60 or more donation.

- Take the time to view the new, GFWC Learning Academy, which offers free courses on essential tools and resources related to leadership, membership, technology, club resources, and financial/budget basics.

This President looks forward to seeing many you at your Spring Conferences in Garden, Highlands, Ramapo and the Southern districts.

- She also hopes to see many of you at our state convention, and thanks you again for your continuing support to your communities and our Federation.

Thank you to every club who submitted year end reports. It is because of your wonderful reports, NJSFWC State Chairmen were able to write and submit their reports to GFWC. Reading those reports was truly inspiring, and you should all be proud of what you have accomplished.

- Make sure to share your reports with your members, especially the statistics, so they know

*In Federation Friendship,*

*Barbara*





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

As this administration comes to a close, I'd like to thank all the NJSFWC club members who read the ALMANAC, the eConnection, who follow GFWC News and Notes and signed up for the GFWC Legislative Action emails. These communication tools give you access to so much information that can guide your club to outstanding ways to help your communities.

And these communication tools reinforce your understanding and appreciation of the fact that you are an integral part of a vast community of thousands of women (and some men members!) whom you may never meet in person but that hold, cherish and advance the same goals that you do: to improve the lives of others while developing your own potential; to create lifelong friendships; and to have fun doing it!

Remember that the ALMANAC and other tools are not just for club presidents. They are available for all members to share. All members are potential leaders for our future.

Think you're not a leader? Reflect on your life over the years: how much planning did you do for work? For your family? You've organized your home, planned parties, arranged doctor appointments, planned/shopped/prepared meals, helped elderly parents, run PTA activities, etc. Each of these activities requires the skills of leadership!

Encourage your fellow members to attend our Annual Convention, even just for one day. Learn all that NJSFWC has to offer. Improve your knowledge with our many workshops. Take part in voting on resolutions that can affect our everyday life. Take part in voting on bylaws changes that run our Federation. See wonderful performances by fellow members. Congratulate five outstanding Women of Achievement.

Enjoy the beautiful Hard Rock Hotel and Casino's clean rooms and great food; take a walk on the Boardwalk. And most importantly, enjoy the company of your fellow Federation sisters.

And come to Atlantic City to meet your new NJSFWC Board members! We look forward to seeing you there.



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

**Why Reporting Our Volunteer Work MATTERS**

Volunteering is the heart of NJSFWC. Every hour served, every dollar donated, and every project completed represents compassion in action. But just as important as doing the work is **reporting the work**. Recording our volunteer projects ensures that our efforts are recognized, measured, and remembered.

First and foremost, reporting shows our impact. When we document service hours, financial contributions, and in-kind donations, we transform individual acts of kindness into a powerful collective story. **Numbers matter**. They allow us to clearly see how much we have accomplished together and demonstrate the real difference we are making in our community.

Accurate reporting also strengthens our **credibility**. By carefully tracking our own projects, we show that the federation operates with professionalism, accountability, and integrity. This builds trust and strengthens partnerships.

In addition, reporting inspires pride and motivation among members. Seeing the total number of hours served or the amount of funds raised reminds us that small individual efforts add up to extraordinary results. It encourages continued involvement and helps us set meaningful goals for the future.

Good records also preserve our legacy. Years from now, members will be able to look back and see the growth, dedication, and leadership that shaped the Federation. Our reports become part of our history — a written testimony of service and commitment.

Most importantly, reporting honors the work of our volunteers. Every project deserves to be counted. Every hour deserves to be recognized. By recording our efforts, we ensure that no act of service goes unnoticed. Together, we don't just volunteer — we make an impact. And by reporting that impact, we make it visible.



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

**Congratulations to all the 25- and 50-year members that are celebrating their anniversary this year and were acknowledged at their Spring Conference! Also, congratulations to those members who brought in two or more members! Great job, keep it up!!!!**

**ASKING ALL CLUBS FOR QUESTIONS:** The workshop at Convention is "All Aboard the Membership Train!" **THIS OFFICER NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR THIS WORKSHOP BY SENDING QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE ANSWERED ABOUT MEMBERSHIP BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK! PLEASE** send me them by email so they can be answered.

### **Social Activity with a Service Project**

Combining a social activity with a Service Project is a powerful way to build community while making a meaningful impact. When members come together not only to have fun but also to help others, the experience becomes more memorable and purposeful.

A creative and relaxed idea is hosting a craft night. Friends or community members can gather to make handmade cards, tray favors, decorated flower pots with a plant in it or knit scarves. The items created can then be donated to hospitals, nursing homes, shelters or Meals on Wheels. The event itself becomes a social gathering filled with conversation and creativity. Another example, assembling care packages for the homeless or writing encouraging letters to seniors can be done while enjoying music and refreshments.

Food related events also work well as combined social-service projects. Organizing a potluck dinner where each guest brings canned goods or essential items to donate to a food bank is one simple idea. Another option is volunteering together at a soup kitchen and then going out for coffee or dessert afterward. There are many more ideas for you to experience such as a game night where you take a break part way through and make cards for service members.

Ultimately, the key to combining a social activity with a service project is balance. The event should feel welcoming and enjoyable while maintaining a clear purpose of helping others. When members realize that giving back can also be enjoyable, they are more likely to continue serving in the future.

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

A reminder that Federation Dues are due on May 1, 2026 along with the submission of the Yearbook Data form, also known as 'the Blue Sheet'.

The Yearbook Data Form was mailed to all club presidents in March and can also be found on the front page of the Federation Yearbook as well on the NJSFWC website (under Material and Forms).

A Treasurer's Workshop, "Treasurers Count: Guardian of the Club", will be held at Convention on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8a.m. Please come and join me!!

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

Looking to understand Raffles and how your club can benefit and use as Fundraising ideas? Come join this Officer at Convention only a few weeks away to hear how to demystify the "ABC'S of Raffles". Join this Officer on Tuesday from 12:30-2:00 p.m. for this interactive workshop. Not coming to Convention? Look for the Top 10 Fundraising ideas coming out after Convention.

More Fundraising ideas can be found under the District Vice President Reports in the ALMANAC Articles as they highlight various projects and events that their clubs are planning. The ALMANAC can be found on the NJSFWC.org website under Materials. You can also get ideas at your District Council meetings where club presidents share some of their upcoming activities. And lastly attend your District Spring Conferences coming up this month where all the presidents will be sharing their accomplishments of this past year.

Did you buy your Mega 50/50 ticket yet? Have you been able to sell any tickets or do you need more? With one month left until the Convention, we are hoping to sell out. If we do the winner will receive \$5,000! Tickets are \$10.00 apiece and are given out in books of ten. Just contact this Officer, Debbie Cibelli at 201-264-6428 and she will get them to you.

Remember if you sold tickets, please make sure to get the stubs and cash/check made payable to NJSFWC to this Officer. Please make sure you put Mega 50/50 in the memo line. Snail mail is fine. Mail to Debbie Cibelli 280 Taft Ct., Paramus, NJ 07652.

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

College District women will “spring into action” with activities to help those in need in their communities as well as share the joys of friendship with each other!

**Woman’s Literary Club of Bound Brook** will have two programs this month: “Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary America” presented by Cindy Blumenkrantz and “The Real Love Story Behind Boris Pasternak’s Doctor Zhivago and the CIA”.

**Branchburg Woman’s Club** will have community outreach with the Foothill Acres Rehabilitation and Nursing Center as well as a “Fun and Games” night at their April meeting.

**Bridgewater Woman’s Club** will be celebrating 50 years with a 1970s trivia game and photos of members from the 70s. They will also have a Blood Drive and collect used bikes for RideWise to be refurbished for adults who need transportation.

**Cedar Wood Woman’s Club** will have a presentation of members’ Achievement Day entries.

**Woman’s Club of Clinton** will have a speaker from the Red Mill Museum and Village to speak on all the events they have for the community.

**Flemington Woman’s Club** will have their annual Scholarship Fundraiser.

**Greater Brunswick Area Woman’s Club** will be doing an Easter project for the children at Women Aware.

**Hillsborough Woman’s Club** will hold a planning meeting for future fundraisers.

**Holland Township Woman’s Club** will have a presentation on a local historical site.

**Metuchen Edison Women’s Club** will volunteer at Hartwyck Nursing Home and hold their annual Garage Sale fundraiser.

**North Brunswick Woman’s Club** will hold their annual Clothing Drive fundraiser.

**The Woman’s Club of South Plainfield** will hold a Mr. Sub fundraiser as well as a clothing drive. They will also have their annual Luncheon/Fashion Show Fundraiser.

**The Woman’s Club of Tewksbury Township** will hold their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Stanton Ridge Country Club featuring dinner, drinks and dancing to “The Nerds”.

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

**Gloucester County Women’s Club’s** annual Adopt a Family Gift Card raffle is underway. Members will be selling chocolate covered pretzels to benefit “Wheels of Change”. Members donated desserts to Emmanuel Cancer Foundation’s “Yoga, Wine and Dessert” fundraiser. Pinwheel Gardens have been set up for Prevent Child Abuse Month.

**The Haddon Fortnightly** hosted the GCI reception. Their “Knit for a Cause” group completed 38 purple baby caps for Prevent Child Abuse NJ. The club is selling “Our America 250” note cards designed by a student who won the design a card contest sponsored by the club.

**The Haddon Fortnightly EMD** Casino and Bingo nights were successful events. The club provided sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, and they continue to collect fuzzy socks, lipsticks and nail polish for Mothers Matter. The club welcomed seven (7) new members.

**Marlton Woman’s Club, Inc.** donates no sew blankets to teens protected from domestic violence. The club hosted a breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House in Camden and will participate in the Relay for Life event. The club welcomes three (3) new members.

**Woman’s Club of Merchantville** held a mini Arts & Culture and Environment Achievement Day asking members to bring any of their creations and then encouraged them to enter their items in the District’s Achievement Day. They will hold their annual Basket Raffle this month. In June, they look forward to a trip on the Spirit of Philadelphia. The club welcomed another new member.

**Monroe Township Woman’s Club** assists the “You are Not Alone Project” providing compassion and tangible support to rape victims following sexual assault nurse exams by supplying clothing, underwear, small blanket, hygiene projects, snacks and water bottle.

**Women’s League of Mount Holly** made surgical gowns, children’s light blankets, and Smile Bags for *Operation Smile*. The club donated food items for *Hand ‘n Heart*-a group serving the homeless population in Burlington/Camden areas. They also continue collecting seasonal clothing for men and women for a local church.

**Women’s Club of Penns Grove/Carneys Point** hosted the Garden District’s Arts Performing Day at Salem County College. The club held another successful Soup Sale.

**Women’s Club of Pennsville** will hold a Spring Bingo, Hoagie Sale and annual Flower Sale.

**Woman’s Club of Pitman** held their third annual Spelling Bee for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and will be holding their annual Clothing and More Drive.

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## GARDEN DISTRICT (Continued)

**Porch Club of Riverton** members enjoy a Stitchery Club and Tai Chi classes. They are planning a trip to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

**Woman's Club of Runnemede** for Heart Health Month enjoyed getting together for tea at a tea house. They continue collecting books for Book Smiles and Sneakers for Got Sneakers.

**Woman's Club of Wenonah** is getting ready for their twice monthly Farmers Market, May thru September.

The **West Deptford Junior Women's Club** recently held a Snow White Tea Party for young children, and they continue to collect monetary donations that they donate to schools to pay down school lunch balances.

The **Woman's Club of West Deptford** members enjoyed an afternoon at the Edelman Fossil Museum with members of the Gloucester County Women's Club. They held a Mother's Day Breakfast the Friday before Mother's Day and will enjoy a "Phillies" night game in June.

The **Woman's Club of Woodstown** held a "Re-gifting" fundraiser raising funds for the NJ Children's Alliance and also a Winter Get Together and Fundraiser to benefit local charities. The club welcomed three (3) new members.

**HIGHLANDS DISTRICT, Karen Jeisi**  
[jeisi@njsfwc.org](mailto:jeisi@njsfwc.org)

**Blair Woman's Club of Blairstown:** Supporting a North Warren High School student for GCI and another for HOBY. Planning for two Pinwheel Gardens in Blairstown to highlight child abuse prevention.

**Woman's Club of Boonton:** With the Boonton Holmes Library, holding a high tea on April 18. In May, participating in a walk-a-thon and a town-wide garage sale.

**Woman's Club of the Denville-Rockaway area:** Held a club Spelling Bee for thirty-one 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from schools in the Rockaway Borough and Township and Denville Township.

**Hopatcong Woman's Club:** Holding its annual Tea Party in April; Barbara McCloskey will be the speaker. Planting pinwheels in the Hopatcong Borough gardens and at Borough Hall to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Long Valley Woman's Club:** Held a successful Antiques Show, its major fundraiser. Performed at the Highlands Arts Performing Day. Collecting paper goods for the local food pantry.

**Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills:** At the March meeting, The Shared Network spoke about organ and tissue donation. Performed at the Highlands Performing Arts Day and continues to prepare food each month at Nourish, NJ.

## HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (Continued)

**Roxbury Woman's Club:** As a fundraiser, selling discounted Hershey Park tickets until April 15. Chairing a community-wide collection for Family Promise and holding a blood drive on April 9. Hosting the Highlands GCI orientation on April 19.

**Sparta Woman's Club:** Attended 'Boots and Boogie' fundraiser at Ginnie's House, a Children's Advocacy Center in Newton. Held its 30<sup>th</sup> annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee. For the April General meeting, the program will be about recycling for Earth Day.

**Thursday Morning Club:** Held its third annual Prom Boutique with free donated dresses, tuxes, shoes, and jewelry. Hosted the Highlands Arts Performing Day on March 11; three clubs performed. Holding its Easter Eggstravaganza for the community, with crafts, face painting, photo with the Easter Bunny and more.

**Vernon Twp Woman's Club:** A master gardener will speak at the April General Meeting. Providing safety backpacks for the Warwick Area Farm Workers Organization (WAFO). Participating in the Taste of Vernon Twp on April 17 and filling Easter baskets for residents of the Safe House in Newton.

**Washington Woman's Club:** Providing crayons for the Crayon Initiative, a non-profit which collects crayon remnants and unwanted crayons and manufactures them into new crayons, which they distribute to 'child life' programs at children's hospitals.

**LIBERTY DISTRICT, Susan Chambers**  
[chambers@njsfwc.org](mailto:chambers@njsfwc.org)

The **Woman's Club of Allwood** will hold a Windcreek Casino bus ride on Sunday, October 18 for \$40. Since April is National Library month and the club meets at the Allwood Library in Clifton, the club will fill a display cabinet with domestic and international travel treasures. They continue to collect pet food and kitty litter for the animal shelter.

The **Woman's Club of Arlington** hosted a choral group from Kip (senior) Center in March. Their Annual Author Event will be on April 26 featuring New York Times best-selling author Amy Stewart who will speak about her well-known series about the Kopp Sisters, based on the true story of Bergen County's first female deputy sheriff and her two rambunctious sisters. \$45 covers the discussion and light lunch.

The **Woman's Club of Arlington EMD, along with The Woman's Club of Arlington**, hosted a Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery Dinner and show in March. The EMD is planning a theatre trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a Tribute to Neil Diamond. The cost is \$93 including lunch.

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## LIBERTY DISTRICT (Continued)

The **Woman's Club of Belleville, Inc.** will hold a Tricky Tray on April 23 at the Chandler on Franklin Avenue in Belleville. Cost is \$65. Contact Joyce Donnelly at 973-568-4006 or [raradada@comcat.net](mailto:raradada@comcat.net) for info.

The **Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** enjoyed a presentation from a member who visited China. The club sponsored a creative writing contest for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

The **Women's Club of Caldwell** made blankets for Project Linus at their library with help from other library patrons. A member did a presentation on her travels to the Holy Land.

The **Woman's Club of Maplewood** now includes the minutes of their past meeting in their monthly newsletter instead of reading them at the next meeting. This saves meeting time and allows members not in attendance to know what happened.

The **Women's Club of Upper Montclair** generously supports not only charities but the Liberty District members as well. They're hosts for Performing Arts Day, Achievement Day, Spring Conference, Liberty District Past Presidents Club, and GCI Orientation. THANK YOU!!!!

The **Roseland Junior Woman's Club** made book and dvd donations to the Roseland Library

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

The **Palisades District** had a successful Arts Performing Festival, attended by 100+ members and guests.

**Book and Needle Club of Oradell** will plant a pinwheel garden at the Oradell Public Library and have a proclamation declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month in Oradell.

**Woman's Club of Dumont** will have two of their 50-year members give a history talk on their club at their April meeting and in May they will have their annual spring luncheon.

**Woman's Club of Englewood** will have a workshop on April 13 on today's pressing legislative issues, online safety, human trafficking, and insurance coverage for menopausal care. Participants will learn how current laws affect our families and our communities and how to take action.

**Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** completed blizzard boxes for Meals on Wheels just in time for the big blizzard.

**Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights** will hold their annual scholarship fundraiser at Fishers Café in Hasbrouck Heights on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## PALISADES DISTRICT (Continued)

**Woman's Club of Lyndhurst** is helping a domestic abuse survivor and her daughter starting over again with household necessities. They will also be planting the pinwheel garden to bring awareness to child abuse prevention month.

**New Milford Woman's Club** is having a busy Spring. On April 15 Jason Kelly, Associate Director from the YMCA in town, will tell us about opportunities for seniors. On May 1 there will be a Springtime Bingo Bash, their fun fundraising event of the year.

**Woman's Club of Old Tappan** will be holding their yearly rummage sale on Saturday, May 3.

**Woman's Club of Rutherford** will hold their annual Spring Tea Party fundraiser on April 15 and will be creating a pinwheel display on their clubhouse lawn for Prevent Child Abuse Month.

**Woman's Club of Westwood** donated \$50 food gift certificates to formerly homeless veterans.

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

**Allendale Woman's Club** will hold a library event with organized kid activities for the Spring break. April 16<sup>th</sup> will be their Fashion Show benefiting the Rescue Squad. They have a Spring Flower Show planned; date to be announced.

**Montville Township Woman's Club** will be collecting items to be used for their Annual Town-Wide Garage Sale in June. They are organizing for Child Abuse Awareness Month and pin wheel placement. They will also be preparing for Achievement Day.

**Pompton Lakes Woman's Club** is excited to announce they are 100 members strong, a feat they attribute to the dedication of their Membership Chair and the club's commitment to community needs. April will be a working month putting together the future budget and preparing for the Spring Conference and Achievement Day.

**Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** had another year of success with their Annual Tricky Tray with this year's funds going toward sponsoring Summer Reading Programs for children and the Food Pantry. They will be planning their Installation Dinner and end of the year Strawberry Ice Cream Social.

**Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey** will be holding their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Woman's Club of Ramsey** will be selecting new Officers for their 118 years of service! In May they will hold their 23<sup>rd</sup> Heirloom Tomato and vegetable plant sale.

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## RAMAPO DISTRICT (Continued)

**Woman's Club of Ridgewood** will hold a luncheon for veterans, Honor to Honor, in celebration of our Country's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are already planning an October Comedy Show event with CASA. Stay tuned.

**Woman's Club of Riverdale** is busy making tray favors for the patients of their local hospital, Chilton Memorial.

**Saddle Brook Woman's Club** will be participating in Saddle Brook's Spring Celebration by handing out candy snacks and other Easter items.

## SHORE DISTRICT, Karen Osborne osborne@njsfwc.org

The **Woman's Club of Brick Township** will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> annual comedy night fundraiser at Uncle Vinnie's Comedy Club on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available for \$60 each.

The **Jersey Coast Women's Club**, being only two years young, will be having their first elections and will hold their installation of new officers and members. They will be celebrating their 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary at the same time. They will participate in A Walk in Their Shoes and breakfast in Seaside Heights. They have an ongoing collection for battery recycling from Staples, a Book Club, and are working on programs to educate their members for each meeting.

The **Woman's Club of Lacey** honored long-time, active member Ellena DiCiccio at the February general meeting. Ellena recently turned 100 years old! Ellena's five daughters attended with her and were treated to a musical performance of her favorite songs and cards from every member, "This is Your Life" program, flowers, memory blanket, cake and coffee. They will be hosting a Musical Festival featuring local artists. Tickets are \$20 available at the door with proceeds designated to support the special needs adult committee.

The **Woman's Club of Little Silver** is preparing for their annual fundraiser, "Another Woman's Treasures". They have an ongoing collection of sneakers and are collecting watches for the veteran project. For the women in the military: Donate your gowns to those who support us every day. May include evening accessories: evening shoes, evening bags and costume jewelry.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** will be officially celebrating 110 years of service to the community on April 20<sup>th</sup> at their clubhouse with NJSFWC and local guests in attendance.

The **Woman's Club of Middletown** will be having an Earth Day program with the possible activity of flower seed cards.

## SHORE DISTRICT (Continued)

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** will hold be having a food collection for Panther's Let's Eat for local families. They will be hosting the annual Spring Conference at the Spring Lake Manor.

The **Woman's Club of Spring Lake** will be presenting scholarships and installing new officers at their Annual Meeting and Luncheon in May at the Breakers by the Sea. They will participate in the annual Beach Sweep, hold a CPR Training program, jewelry appraisal night, and international dinner. The Annual New Administration Board retreat will be in June.

**Stafford Township Woman's Club** will be having a soup lunch, Bunco, Music Bingo, and are very busy rehearsing for Performing Arts performances. They will be having their Gift Auction for charity.

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

At their March Meeting, the **Woman's Club of Absecon** made table decorations for the District's Spring Conference. Their new officers will be installed at their May Meeting. Over the summer they'll participate in Absecon's Memorial Day Parade and National Night Out.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** will plant their second pinwheel garden for Prevent Child Abuse Month. The April program is on gardening and in May they'll enjoy a luncheon at the Lobster House. Hopefully the weather will be good for their summer picnic in June at Cape May Point.

The **Colony Club of Ocean** is busy planning their Spirit of '76 Dinner and Fashion Show fundraiser. It's on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Greate Bay Country Club. They held a fundraiser at Simply Sweet Ice Cream and Soda Shop in March and this month they'll have another fundraiser at Randazzo's Restaurant.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** will have a pinwheel garden and a children's coloring contest for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Their Memorial Day wreath will be amongst others at the Memorial Day ceremony. Their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America committee is working with the town in two project areas.

The **Millville Woman's Club** will host the district's GCI Orientation. During April they will be collecting pet food and supplies for the animal shelter. April is their birthday month, celebrated with their annual birthday luncheon meeting. The program is entitled "The Long March". They have monthly book discussions.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** is holding Baskets, Bags and Bingo at the Millville Elks from 1:00-5:00 PM on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a portion of the proceeds going to furnish a room at the Cumberland County Safe House. They will again sponsor Youth Art Month in the Vineland Public School District

## THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE

### PROGRAM, Kathleen Reddick, reddick@njsfwc.org

In Woman's Clubs throughout the state, April unfolds with the spirit of artistic competition as we move through Achievement Day season.

Arts, crafts, baking and the art of friendly rivalry is in the fresh air of spring. In a world that prizes instant results, it isn't just about the final piece or the gold ribbon—it's about the hours of learning, laughing, and the companionship that is nurtured through A&C workshops and projects. It all comes together for NJSFWC at the Achievement Days. This Chairman has learned so much from all of you. It's been an honor to serve in this position.

The State Achievement Day is not only the ultimate appreciation of the work behind the beauty of the projects you have worked on through the year, but also the culmination of the practice, creativity, curiosity, and patience that developed your talents. The three Ballrooms at the Hard Rock come alive with beauty and excitement. You don't want to miss it.

Whether you're a seasoned artist, crafter, or a curious beginner, here are some closing tips from your retiring Chairman that has served well in the artistic journey.

- Focus on process over perfection: The best projects teach you something valuable about your own methods—your preferred textures, your timing, your intuition.
- Keep a craft journal: Sketch ideas, paste fabric swatches, record what worked and what didn't.
- Build your toolkit thoughtfully: A reliable pair of scissors, a basic needle set, a non-slip cutting mat, and a comfortable workspace can make a world of difference in the quality of your results.

Respect your pace: Big projects can be daunting. Break tasks into mornings, afternoons, or evenings, and reward yourself with a quiet cup of tea when you complete a milestone

## THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE

### PROGRAM, Ann Ribinsky Brown, brown@njsfwc.org

It's hard to believe that this administration is almost at an end. Thanks to the 64 clubs who sent in reports. The reported statistics are: 484 projects, totaling 12,347 hours; \$35,203 in donations and \$11,232 for in-kind donations. Your reported projects included writing contests, theatre parties and movie attendance. Several clubs are preparing for our country's 250th Anniversary.

Volunteering as a District Chairman for Arts Performing requires organizational skills but brings satisfaction seeing the show on stage. Thanks to this year's Chairmen: Shelly Rothstein, Palisades; Ann Lawless, Highlands; Barbara Spillane, Liberty; JoAnne

## ARTS/PERFORMING (Continued)

DeBenedicts, Shore; Nancy Hammond, Southern; and Patti Adair, Garden.

This Chairman has enjoyed the Performing Arts Days and looks forward to putting together District winners at our Convention show on the Hard Rock Stage.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY

### SERVICE PROGRAM, Joan Murdock, murdock@njsfwc.org

#### *Between the Pages Book Club News –*

The Between the Pages Book Club members read over 280 books from September 15, 2025 to February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. (The exact figures will be reported at your Spring Conferences since our BTP Club ends March 15<sup>th</sup>. What an accomplishment and what a fun project we shared.

Thank you for the positive reviews and hopefully BTP will be back during our next administration. This chairman has had the opportunity to get to know some of our club members in every section of the state and we have shared a lot about your reviews. But let's not forget what we set out to do.... Get more people to read!!!

Continue to encourage your club members, share book clubs, don't forget your Libraries, your teachers, your enthusiasm for this department. Remember your scholarships, HOBY, ESO, Read Across America,

Do some creative things with your book clubs to enhance membership!! Make it fun, go to a Library for a meeting and see if someone there might become interested in your book club and then become a member. Have refreshments that depict where your book takes place, just think of the countries you will "visit"... and what you might serve...

All in all, thank you for supporting a simple small project, dreamt on a whim and making it into an exciting rewarding event for all of us.

Below you will find a few more reviews that were received in February.

Joani George, Woman's Club of Absecon offered a review of the book, *Under the Stars* by Beatriz Williams. "This is a historical novel with a dual timeline. The modern-day mother-daughter relationship is wrought with secrets, as well as the 1840-character's story. I enjoyed the stories of both timelines and was carried along through the story until the secrets were revealed. I enjoyed this novel and recommend it."

*The Forgotten Book Club* by Kate Storey was reviewed by Joan Baur from the Woman's Club of West Deptford. "Grace, a widow, attends the book club founded by her

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## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (Continued)

late husband and finds many surprises. The book's theme of friendship, depression, ADHS, second chances and Silent Book Clubs made the book very interesting. The concept of Silent Book was new to this reader."

Our Margaret Yardley Fellowship Fund selection was made and winners will be notified during the month. There were Fourteen (14) club spelling bees held during the early part of this year. Each club registered to obtain the Confidential Club Word List.

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

As everyone knows Chairmen write these several months before they are published. As the snow melts, take a look at your shrubs. If they seem rather rag tagged, let's think about when is the best time to prune the bushes.

Flowering shrubs should be pruned as the flowers fade, such as lilac, forsythia, azalea, rhododendron, mock orange and weigela. Rose of Sharon, butterfly bush, hydrangea, and shrub roses are best pruned in early spring before new growth starts. This group has summer blooms so you have a little while to get them done.

Evergreens are best pruned in late March or early April before new growth begins. There are some exceptions: Dead, damaged, or diseased wood can be pruned at any time of the year, but try not to prune from August to October. The shrub won't have time to get ready for the winter cold and has a great probability of dying. If a shrub is overgrown, you can cut it almost to the ground in late winter. It may take awhile for it to get back to its color but it will be back next year. If you are really confused, you can call Rutgers Extension Service. The phone number changes by county.

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

As this Chairman cycles off this position and the current administration comes to a close, she wants to sincerely thank everyone for their participation, enthusiasm, and support throughout her time with Health and Wellness. It's been a privilege to share ideas, learn alongside you, and be part of a community of women that truly value well-being in all of its forms. It has been a particular joy to see so many clubs embrace the Let's Get Moving challenge and even make fun, physical fitness part of their club's regular activities. Your engagement and openness are what made this role so meaningful, and this Chairman has been grateful for the opportunity to serve.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Continued)

As a final tip for wellness, this Chairman wants to address the elephant in the room for so many clubwomen: worry and anxiety are among the most common mental health challenges we face, and learning to worry less is an important wellness skill. One helpful approach is to focus on what you can control in the present moment rather than replaying past events or anticipating worst-case scenarios. Practices like deep breathing, limiting news or social media intake, and writing down worries to "contain" them can help calm the nervous system. Over time, small daily habits that promote grounding and self-compassion can significantly reduce anxiety and improve overall mental health.

**April's Exercise Tip for Let's Get Moving:** As we look ahead to the warm summer months, remember that water aerobics is a low-impact workout that's gentle on joints while still providing excellent cardiovascular and strength benefits. The natural resistance of water helps tone muscles and improve balance without putting strain on the body. It's also refreshing, social, and accessible for many fitness levels, making it a great option to add to your routine no matter where you are in your fitness journey

## ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN, Marie DiMatties, [dimatties@njsfwc.org](mailto:dimatties@njsfwc.org)

This Chairman thoroughly enjoyed reading all the amazing work that was done by clubs throughout NJSFWC last year.

She was particularly impressed with the projects done by the Book and Needle Woman's Club of Oradell. According to their 2025 report, their members supported Child Abuse Prevention Month in April with several projects.

- A proclamation from Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey was presented by the Mayor of Oradell with three members in attendance at the Council meeting. A statement regarding advocacy for children's rights was read and the members thanked the Borough's Mayor and Council for their support in raising community awareness of child abuse prevention.
- Members filled the front of the Oradell Library with pinwheels in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month supporting President McCloskey's Grand Initiative Pinwheel Gardens Project. Each year they have added more pinwheels to increase the garden size and make it a focal point in the town.
- Members wore blue to their April general club meeting and displayed a lantern to "shine a light" on child abuse prevention.

Well, done, ladies!

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

Amendments to the NJSFWC Bylaws will be presented at the Business Session of our Annual Convention on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and voted on at that time. The Amendments proposed by the Bylaws Committee were approved by the Executive Committee and the NJSFWC Board of Directors for presentation at Convention.

Club Presidents have received a copy of the Proposed Amendments which were enclosed in the CALL to Convention. They should be discussed at a club meeting. A copy of the Amendments should be given to the Delegates in order that they familiarize themselves with them in order to vote.

The Bylaws of any organization are similar to a legal corporate document and are the formally adopted rules of procedure of governance for the organization. They define the organization, its primary characteristics, how it functions, and cannot be changed except "by a two-thirds vote of the voting body present and voting at the Convention." The Bylaws, in order to remain relevant, should be reviewed each year and changed as necessary. Article XVII of the NJSFWC Bylaws describes the procedure to be followed to amend the Bylaws.

This Chairman is grateful for the help and guidance of an outstanding committee consisting of Laura Badger, Maribeth Hugelmeyer, Joan Murdock, Dorothy Prisco, Jean Revis, NJSFWC Recording Secretary and Past State President and Ex-officio members Barbara McCloskey, NJSFWC President, Patricia Dahl, NJSFWC Second Vice President and Ann Quinn, Parliamentarian Consultant to the Board and Past State President.

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

As this administration comes to a close, it has been my honor to serve as the NJSFWC Communications Chairman. Whether we met at a workshop, State Conference, Convention or even just spoke over the phone, I have truly enjoyed interacting with all of you and hearing about the wonderful ways you are communicating with your club members and your community.

This Chairman is pleased to share that clubs in 2025 reported spending 40,674 hours on communications projects. The project narratives reflected the wide variety of ways that clubs are promoting themselves and Federation. After two successful workshops it was great to see how many clubs are using Canva for their flyers, newsletters, logos, trifolds and other club materials. Social media has become a major force in gaining members, sharing club accomplishments and spreading the word about upcoming events. It is amazing to see how far we have come these past few years.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention in May and wish you a safe and healthy summer!

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

Last month this Chairman covered the activities for Sunday and Monday of the NJSFWC Convention. As promised, this month we will concentrate on the activities for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday morning begins with DRUM2BFIT at 8:00 am; signup is required. Also beginning at 8:00 am, there are two Workshops, "A Pathway to Great Meetings", moderated by Chris Sienkielewski and Jean Revis and "Treasurers Count: Guardian of the Club", led by Linda Carbley.

The Tuesday Business Meeting convenes at 9:30 am when the District Vice Presidents from Palisades, Ramapo, Shore, and Southern will give their reports. The Community Service Chairmen will present awards for Best Reported Work in each category. Guest Speaker, Joel Farkas, will present a program on "Women in the American Revolution".

At the conclusion of the meeting, voting for the elected positions for the next Administration will take place (11:30- 1:30 pm). Then there's time to purchase your lunch in the Food Court and head off to a Workshop of your choice including:

- "All Aboard the Membership Train", by Patricia Dahl
- "The ABCs of Raffles", by Debbie Cibelli
- Project Ideas are not a Big Secret", by Board Members
- Book Discussion of "The Stolen Queen" by Fiona Davis, led by Joyce Dreger or
- A Craft Workshop taught by Marie Sullivan

Following the Lunch and Learn Workshops, it's off to the Sound Waves Theater for a fun and relaxing presentation of the winners of each District's Arts Performing Day.

Following District Photographs, the evening's Banquet, "Saluting Our Stars", honors our Club Presidents who will process into the Ballroom led by their District Vice Presidents.

The keynote address will be given by GFWC First Vice President, Jolie Frankfurt. The winner of the most prestigious award of NJSFWC, the Cecilia Gaines Holland Award, will be announced and honored.

The highlight of the evening will be the Installation of the new President of NJSFWC, Susan Chambers and her elected Board.

Wednesday morning's Business Session at 9:30 am begins with a moving tribute, the In Memoriam Ceremony followed by a presentation from the Special State Project winner for 2026-2028. Awards for Best Reported Work in Fundraising, Membership, Leadership and the Carol Sas award will be presented as well.

Following the singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth", the gavel will sound as we close our Convention for 2026 and conclude our festivities. We hope that this time in Atlantic City "When Friends Gather" was a fun and informative time for all!

## **CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION,**

**Carole Thompson, thompson@njsfwc.org**

The 132<sup>nd</sup> NJSFWC Annual Convention will be "When Friends Gather". To participate in all the activities, you must have your **Registration for Convention** postmarked **on or before April 5<sup>th</sup>** to avoid the late fee. If you cannot meet the deadline, you can still pre-register with the late charge and select meals until April 12, 2026. The Registration fee would then be \$60.00.

**No registration** will be accepted by mail postmarked **after April 12, 2026.**

On-site registration for members or guest/visitors will be \$60.00 for the Convention or one day \$30.00. **NO on-site registration for Delegates and Alternates will be available.**

Credentials must be worn at all meetings, programs, workshops and in the exhibit area. Please come to our registration area as soon after arrival as possible.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact this Chairman. She looks forward to welcoming you to the Convention.

## **DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION, Claire Hill, hill@njsfwc.org**

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is in April in the United States and is a perfect time to be an advocate against child abuse and take the time to educate your community, especially about human trafficking.

- This can include all types of abuse and neglect for a child under the age of 18, by a parent, caregiver or custodian, that results in harm or threat of harm to a child.
- Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts.
- Emotional abuse can harm a child's self-worth or emotional wellbeing, which includes name calling, shaming, withholding love and threatening.
- Encourage club members to be Court Appointed Advocates (CASA) or Guardians.
- Collect teddy bears to give to children at advocacy centers.
- Support local Child Protective Service Agencies with kits for children entering foster care.
- Support legislation that eradicates child abuse<sup>4</sup> and/or makes laws tougher.

## **GIRLS CAREER INSTITUTE, Ellen Lund,**

**lund@njsfwc.org**

GCI 2026 is moving right along. This Director has been in contact with Rutgers University via a phone call. The dates are set, (June 1-4). We will be housed in Katzenbach once again, which is very convenient for everyone. A Zoom meeting was held with the staff.

Ninety-three Clubs are sending Delegates. Our maximum number of delegates will be 168. Six Clubs have made monetary donations as well as some individual members and businesses.

A lengthy email was sent to the entire staff with current information along with the link to the mandatory Protection of Minors training. This training is required every year by all participants.

Jill McDonald has been instrumental in setting up our workshop speakers. We are always looking for additional speakers for our GCI program. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please let me and/or Jill know.

Our GCI wish list is on the NJSFWC.org website under Materials, Girls Career Institute.

We are also always looking for Volunteers to assist with GCI. A new and more detailed Volunteer form will be posted on the website shortly. Volunteering is a great way to fully see and understand what GCI is all about.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact this Director either by email ([elabc123@gmail.com](mailto:elabc123@gmail.com)) or call or text me by telephone. (973-979-4077). If she does not answer, please leave a message and she will get back to you.

## **HISTORIAN, Randi Quilici**

**quilici@njsfwc.org**

Agnes A. Schermerhorn of the Woman's Club of Orange served as the second President of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) to hold a three-year term, from 1917 to 1920. Her presidency coincided with World War I, and her calm, purposeful leadership guided New Jersey clubwomen through a period of national crisis and service.

Her administration was shaped by the guiding principle, "A sane and steady service," emphasizing balance, perspective, and consistent effort. The wartime slogan "COS" (Conservation or Starvation) led to the formation of the Committee of Food Economics, which promoted food conservation, thrift, and home preservation in support of the national war effort.

Members also supported Liberty Loan campaigns, Red Cross initiatives, and war relief work by sewing bandages, knitting socks, and preparing medical

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## HISTORIAN (Continued)

supplies. Some clubs turned their clubhouses over to the Red Cross for wartime use.

At Camp Dix in Burlington County, the Federation equipped and maintained a Soldiers' Club known as the "Haversack," providing a welcoming space for thousands of soldiers until its closure in July 1919. Education and civic engagement were also priorities. Members sponsored lectures on patriotism, democracy, and citizenship; assisted with immigrant education; and trained women as Reconstruction Aides to help rehabilitate wounded soldiers in hospitals.

Beyond wartime efforts, the Federation addressed industrial and social conditions affecting working women, with "Americanization" as a central focus. The Governor of New Jersey recognized the Federation's growing civic influence by appointing President Schermerhorn to the Commission for the Blind.

A lasting achievement of this era was the establishment of the New Jersey College for Women, which opened in 1918 under the leadership of Mabel Smith Douglass and later became Douglass College. The Federation also secured its first permanent headquarters in Newark in 1918.

Following her presidency, Schermerhorn continued her national leadership, playing a key role in establishing the permanent General Federation headquarters in Washington, D.C., a lasting testament to her vision and the enduring legacy of New Jersey clubwomen.

As we reflect on President Agnes A. Schermerhorn's legacy, we honor the past and present NJSFWC Presidents whose leadership has shaped our Federation. As President McCloskey's two-year term draws to a close in May 2026, we honor her dedicated service and exemplary leadership

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

Consider putting a deceased Club woman's name into the NJSFWC Memorials Book. An "In Memoriam card" will be sent to the family members announcing that a memorial gift has been made to the NJSFWC in remembrance of their loved one.

Also, consider becoming a Patron for the Women of Achievement Awards Program. Individual club women, interested guests, and all federated clubs are invited to become Patrons of these awards with a listing in the Awards Program Book. All proceeds will fund a one-time scholarship for a non-traditional student enrolled at Douglass Residential College. It is requested that donations be made as soon as possible so that they may be included in the program book.

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

## LEGISLATIONS & RESOLUTIONS, Jacqueline Wisner, wisner@njsfwc.org

With a new governor and new state administration in place and an upcoming election cycle, NJSFWC members are presented a critical opportunity to shape public policy. By staying informed, engaging strategically, and building strong relationships with lawmakers, advocates can advance meaningful progress in women's and maternal health throughout New Jersey.

Aligned with the mission of the **General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)**, several current legislative proposals reflect key concerns related to women's and maternal health.

- **A2219 – Reproductive Health Care Access Fund**  
Establishes a state fund to expand access to reproductive health services and support providers and patients. *Status: Referred to committee*  
**Impact:** Strengthens statewide access to essential reproductive care.
- **A3505 / S2978 – Family Leave for Bereavement**  
Allows employees to use family leave and temporary disability benefits following miscarriage, stillbirth, child loss, or unsuccessful fertility treatment. *Status: Passed Assembly; pending Senate action*  
**Impact:** Provides job-protected time for grieving and recovery.
- **A2222 – Reproductive Health Professional Loan Redemption Program**  
Creates a loan forgiveness program for reproductive health providers serving in underserved areas. *Status: Pending*  
**Impact:** Expands access by strengthening the healthcare workforce.
- **A2668 – High-Risk Pregnancy Screening and Reporting**  
Requires standardized screening and reporting for high-risk pregnancies and fetal deaths. *Status: Pending committee referral*  
**Impact:** Improves maternal health data and outcomes.
- **A2443 – Workplace Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Protections**  
Expands employer obligations under the Law Against Discrimination. *Status: Pending*  
**Impact:** Strengthens workplace protections for women across multiple sectors.
- Here are tips to consider before meeting with policymakers:
  - **Clarify your purpose:** who you represent and what you wish to discuss,
  - **Request appropriate contacts:** identifying your topic in advance ensures you meet with the relevant staff.
- **Plan for time limits:** expect 30 minutes with staff and 10–15 minutes with legislators. - **Focus your message:** prioritize one or three

## LEGISLATIONS & RESOLUTIONS (Continued)

**key issues** rather than attempting to cover many.

- **Use official resources:** align talking points with GFWC resolutions and policy guidance.

Whenever possible meet with legislators and staff in district offices, attend town halls and community events, and invite district staff to club programs and special events. Always include a **one-page “leave-behind”** summarizing the issue, your request, and your organization’s contact information. An don’t forget the value of a well-crafted **thank-you note or letter** reiterating your goals and appreciation. Onward into 2026!

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

### Watch Out for Spoofing!

Recently one of our DVPs received the following email:

Hey Mary,  
I’m in urgent need of your assistance right now. Linda needs to make a deadline payment to a vendor today but is currently having issues with Zelle and PayPal (likely due to network issues). I would really appreciate your help in making this payment as soon as possible. Please let me know, and I’ll send the payment details. Your help would be greatly appreciated—Linda will issue and send a refund check once the payment is processed. Best regards, Susan Chambers

Sounds very real, doesn’t it? The sender even knows the treasurer’s name is Linda. But upon further examination, the email address it came from was arjun@mirrikhqatar.org. So Susie didn’t get hacked because it wasn’t from her account. It was just what they call “spoofing,” using someone else’s name with a random email address.

Members of your State Board will never ask you to make a payment for them! And especially not with gift cards or crypto! If you receive an email like this, **DO NOT CLICK REPLY**. Check and see the actual email address the email was sent from. Or send a separate email to an email address that you know belongs to the person the email purports to be from.

### Methods to Identify Email Sender:

- **Hover/Check Header Info:** Hover your mouse over the sender’s name in your email client, or click the “details” or “down arrow” next to the sender’s name to view the actual email address.
- **Inspect Full Headers:** Open the email and look for “View Message Source,” “Show Original,” or “View Header” in your email provider’s options.

### WEBMASTER (Continued)

- **Check ‘Return-Path’:** This field shows where non-delivery or “bounce” messages go, which is often the true originating address.

### Common Red Flags:

- **Display Name Spoofing:** Attackers often set the “From” display name to a trusted name (e.g., “PayPal Support”) while the actual address is a random, unrelated email.
- **Lookalike Domains:** Inspect closely for misspellings (e.g., info@micros0ft.com instead of microsoft.com).  
**Hidden Headers:** If the “From” line differs from the X-Original-Sender or Return-Path in the full headers, the email is likely forged.

Finally, if the “from” email address is actually the State Board member’s, then her account has probably been hacked. Call or text her to let her know. She will need to log onto her email account and change the password.



*...and O, Lord God! Let us  
forget not to be kind*