



ALMANAC

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



While Autumn is a time for nature to prepare for a dormant winter, NJSFWC is gearing up for a renewed season of activity! Clubs across the state are energized and “rarin’ to go” into our communities to give a hand to those who need it. And ... to have some fun while we’re doing it!

September Councils gave you a glimpse of activities to come and this ALMANAC will give you more info on what you have to look forward to.

Columbus Day weekend will find many of your Federation Sisters at the Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR) Conference in Albany, New York, where we’ll meet with members from New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware as well as with our GFWC International President Wendy Carriker and First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth.

October 19 is the NJSFWC State Fall Conference at Harbor Point in Pt. Pleasant. This Officer hopes to greet many of you there. You’ll hear two informative speakers (about Senior Services available throughout NJ, and how to have a healthy club) and find out which clubs will receive Membership Grants as well as which clubs have been recognized by GFWC.

Be sure to mark your calendar, AND make your reservation, to attend NJSFWC Open House on Thursday, November 19. We’ll be holding a decorative wreath sale to benefit Headquarters. Contact Linda Carbley, carbley@njsfwc.org, for details.

Here’s to a “chill” autumn, a Spooky but not scary Halloween – and wishing you more Treats than Tricks!

In Federation Friendship,

Susan Chambers
NJSFWC President
NJSFWC: A Force for Good

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NJSFWC President-elect
Chris Sienkielewski,
sienkielewski@njsfwc.org

Great NJSFWC Clubs are built on strong relationships. Sometimes clubs prioritize a project and task completion rather than connecting with members and their skill set or their willingness to learn a new skill. When clubs treat their members like valued partners, there is more chance that members will move forward rather than taking a step back, eventually leaving for new opportunities.



When you intentionally build authentic and genuine relationships, members stay and they build their experiences based on their value and their contributions. Members who feel appreciated and know what they can give to your club's work are more likely to step into leadership roles, refer their friends, stay longer and build lasting friendships.

You need to give consistent, authentic attention to the women who power your club work, remembering details about their lives, following up on their experiences, and using tools and processes that make it easy to stay in touch and show you care.

One of the fastest ways to lose members is through unclear expectations. Many times, when we need volunteers for something, we downplay the specifics of the job and become vague, to avoid scaring them off. When your members show up for a project and are unsure of what they are supposed to do and are unprepared, they immediately feel anxious and have a poor experience...and they may not come back. Setting up your members for success builds meaningful and confidence-building experiences. And they are ready to begin another new project. So how do you do this?

- Provide detailed job/role descriptions before asking for volunteers
- Set clear time commitments and boundaries
- Always communicate before and after any event or project and listen for any adverse problems to ensure they are rectified in the future.

NJSFWC First Vice President,
Patricia Dahl
dahl@njsfwc.org

Club Presidents should have received the updated Report Forms which were sent at the end of September, and they will also be available on the NJSFWC website. While February 1, 2027, may feel far away, it has a way of sneaking up on us! Clubs are encouraged to take a peek at the forms, note any program changes, and start gathering information for projects completed from January 1 through December 31, 2026. A quick look through club minutes, project reports, and worksheets now can save everyone a last-minute scramble later.



Projects for NJ Children's Alliance should be reported on the Advocates for Children Report, while the Special State Project report for the 2026–2028 project, **embrella**, should continue to be sent to the Special State Project Chairman. And remember, reports are much more than paperwork and certificates. They tell the story of your club, add to NJSFWC history, highlight the wonderful community impact of New Jersey's clubwomen, and may even open the door to statewide recognition or GFWC awards.

The First Vice President oversees the Community Service Programs and several additional areas, including Advocates for Children, Communications, Community Impact Program, GFWC Signature Project, Historian, Legislation and Resolutions, and the NJSFWC Special State Project. State Chairmen use club reports to prepare required GFWC submissions, so the details you share—project descriptions, volunteer hours, donations, and community results—really do matter. Think of each report as a spotlight on the good work your club is already doing.

This Officer can hear a faint sigh of apprehension throughout New Jersey as the process of writing reports settles in. No worries! Every club is invited to attend one of two Report Writing Workshops. The times for each workshop vary and a flyer is included in this ALMANAC, on the website and distributed to all clubs through their District Vice Presidents.

NJSFWC First Vice President Continued

The best place to begin is simply to begin: gather project information, update reports from previous years when appropriate, and write brief narratives that explain each project. Starting early will help clubs complete their reports with confidence—and with a little breathing room—while sharing the meaningful work they are doing in their communities. With a little preparation, report writing can be less of a chore and more of a celebration of all the good work being done by clubs across New Jersey.

NJSFWC Second Vice President Linda Carbley carbley@njsfwc.org

Congratulations to all the clubs for welcoming 78 new members since May! Every new member brings fresh ideas, new energy, and the opportunity to make an even greater difference in our communities.



As the weather turns cooler and the leaves begin to change, let's embrace the season and "Fall for Membership!" GFWC Membership Week will be celebrated November 9–16, making it the perfect time to showcase all that your club has to offer and invite others to join us in making a difference.

Here are a few ways to spread the word and introduce your club to your community:

- Plan a membership event at a club meeting, local coffee shop, favorite restaurant, or community library.
- Sponsor a booth at a local Fall Harvest Festival, Town Day, or other community event.
- Attend a PTA meeting in your town and share information about your club and its community involvement.
- Create or update your club's website so prospective members can easily learn more about your organization.
- Promote your club's activities on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms.

When promoting your club, be sure to have pamphlets, business cards, and posters that showcase your club's mission and the difference you are making. Highlight your local community projects, as well as the

NJSFWC Second Vice President Continued

NJSFWC and GFWC projects your club supports. Let people see the many opportunities available to make a positive impact alongside you.

And remember, the invitation doesn't end when you meet a potential member! Follow up with a phone call or message, invite them to attend a meeting, and consider assigning a membership buddy who can personally welcome them and help them feel at home.

Most importantly, don't be discouraged if every effort doesn't result in a new member. Membership growth is a journey, and every conversation is an opportunity. Some people may not be ready to join today, but your enthusiasm and kindness may inspire them to become a member tomorrow.

This fall, let's fall for membership—and fall in love all over again with the difference we can make when we work together!

NJSFWC Treasurer Linda Hrycenko hrycenko@njsfwc.org

Your club budget is finally done... What a relief... You can breathe... You looked at disbursements: Federation dues, postage, insurance, charitable registration, programs, etc. You looked at receipts: membership dues, interest, internal fundraisers, external programs, etc. You and your financial committee did their best to anticipate expenses and revenue. Your club has approved the budget, and you're excited to begin the actual work of the club. Here's to a job well done!



After approval from the club, it's time for the Treasurer to become a manager, that is the manager of the disbursements and receipts. A budget is never treasurer perfect. It's merely a blueprint or guide for fiscal responsibility for your club. It's the treasurer's responsibility to make sure that an expenditure does not exceed the budgeted amount and to notify the membership if the expenses appear to be going over budget. The club membership has the responsibility to make the decision not to spend the money, amend

NJSFWC Treasurer Continued

the budget, or revise the budget (2/3 vote without notice or majority vote with notice). If the club chooses to add this expense, they should then look at how they can increase the revenue to have a balanced budget. Having expenses that exceed the budget does not automatically mean that the club can't spend money, they just need to make some adjustments. Maintaining fiscal responsibility and having flexibility gives the club a chance to deal with inflation and new ideas.

Working together with the budget and making sure that the club is living within the budget is not an individual project; it takes teamwork! The club has already prioritized their spending, now is the time to use that information, work together on projects, and create programs to enrich the community and club women. Remember to have fun, enjoy the hard work and as I always say, "numbers are our friends!"

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact this Treasurer at (732) 406-3983 or hrycenko@njsfwc.org.

NJSFWC Financial Secretary Laurel Dobalo dobalo@njsfwc.org

It's time to check whether your Legalized Games of Chance Raffle License needs to be renewed. Each license is good for two years so you may still be good for 2027 but if it expires this year, go to <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/lgccc/pages/applications.aspx> to find the Application for Renewal.



It's also time to file your 501(c)(3) 990-form. Many clubs have new officers so it's important to be on top of this. If your club falls under the NJSFWC umbrella, as a 501(c)(3), your club is responsible for filing a 990-form required by the IRS by November 15, 2026. This form is for tax-exempt organizations with gross receipts of less than \$50,000 per year. Clubs that fail to file for three consecutive years will automatically lose their tax-exempt status. Please make sure to file—it is time consuming and costly to reestablish your tax-exempt status.

NJSFWC Financial Secretary Continued

Once you have filed (electronically), you will receive a confirmation that states "You have successfully filed your 990". Please take a screen shot and send it to this Officer, Laurel Dobalo, Financial Secretary, 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick NJ 08901 or email it to dobalo@njsfwc.org. If your club name does not appear on the confirmation, please make sure to hand write it on the confirmation. This officer is available to help if you have any questions

Vice President, College District April Shoemaker shoemaker@njsfwc.org

Holland Township Woman's Club will host its largest fundraiser, a 40-vendor Craft and Vendor Show, on Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Edwards Parish Center in Milford, NJ.



GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club held an August ice cream social at the club president's home, donated three filled backpacks to embrella for the Special State Project, and will fill 12 stockings—six for women and six for men—for soldiers at its September meeting.

Vice President, Garden District Cheryl Fairchild fairchild@njsfwc.org

At its September meeting, the **Woman's Club of Woodstown** hosted a "Sock Party," where members donated new socks to the Salem County Woman's Shelter. The club also collected items from the Vineland Veterans' Home wish list to donate with Christmas cards.

The **Marlton Woman's Club, Inc.** participated in the Evesham Township Harvest Festival, selling Hershey bars and hosting a Tootsie Pop game for children. All proceeds benefited Veterans Haven

**Vice President, Garden District
Continued**

South in Vineland, which provides homeless veterans with job training, housing, and counseling. Club members also wore pink and distributed mammogram reminders in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



The **West Deptford Junior Women's Club** hosted the family-friendly Superhero Scoops Ice Cream Social. Attendees created their own sundaes and enjoyed face painting, hair tinsel, temporary tattoos, interactive activities, and photo opportunities with superheroes. Proceeds from the event support the local community.

The **Contemporary Club of the Garden District** held its semiannual meeting at a member's home. Following dinner and the business meeting, members participated in a bag auction featuring wrapped, fall-themed gifts. They bid without knowing each gift's contents until the auction ended. Proceeds benefited NJSFWC charities.

**Vice President, Highlands District
Joan Garbarino
garbarino@njsfwc.org**

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Boonton** continues to create lasting ties with their community. The club logo and club members' names were submitted for the Boonton Time Capsule scheduled to be opened in the year 2051. The club will have a table at the Boonton Farmers Market as well as at the Boonton Day celebration with information about the club – hopefully attracting some new members.



**Vice President Highlands District
Continued**

The **Woman's Club of Denville Rockaway** held a successful fundraiser for their scholarship fund at the Barn Theater in Montville. The theater was filled by members and friends for a special showing of Spamalot and made over \$5,000.

The **Washington Woman's Club** continues to collect plastic in the hopes of winning a bench from the NexTrex company. Prior to the company changing their program, the club had saved 5,000 pounds of plastic to obtain five benches – three were placed in the community and two were used as prizes in the club's annual Tricky Tray. The club is committed to help protect the environment by keeping plastic out of landfills.

**Vice President, Liberty District
Vivien Finn
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The **Woman's Club of Maplewood** filled 32 backpacks for elementary and middle school students. Family Promise picked up the backpacks for distribution to students in need. The club will hold its first Book Club meeting in September at the Maplewood Library, where members will discuss Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** will hold its Opening Luncheon on Wednesday, October 7. The club's two GCI delegates will



attend as guests and report on their experiences at GCI. The club will also host a Red Cross blood drive on October 22 and a luncheon on October 28 to benefit the Human Needs Food Pantry and Montclair Emergency Services for Hope.

The **Junior Woman's Club of Roseland** will participate in the Roseland Fall Harvest Festival, where members will sell Roseland magnets at the club's table. On October 30, the club will sponsor its 30th annual Fifth Grade Halloween Dance, featuring a DJ, snacks, a costume contest, and trophies.

Vice President, Palisades District
Shelley Rothstein
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The **Woman's Club of Rutherford** held an indoor/outdoor yard sale featuring furniture, home décor, clothing, kitchenware, toys, games, and much more. Members collected donations over the two preceding weekends and devoted considerable time to arranging and organizing the merchandise. Proceeds benefited local charities and supported clubhouse maintenance. The club also hosted a Bunco fundraiser featuring a 50/50 drawing and a basket raffle.

The **Woman's Club of Paramus** is running a Mega 50/50 throughout the fall to raise funds for its charitable donation account. Members collected items throughout September and will assemble 50 stockings for Operation Holiday Stocking at their October general meeting. In early October, 20 members will participate in an Eco-Cruise arranged through Hackensack Riverkeeper.



The **Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park** held a food drive for the GFWC Day of Service to benefit the Center for Hope and Safety, a local domestic violence shelter. Members are also collecting bread tags for Danielle Cares for Chairs, an organization that raises funds to purchase wheelchairs for people in need. Throughout the fall, the club is accepting monetary donations to purchase wreaths for Wreaths Across America.

Vice President, Ramapo District
Maria Kent
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The **Woman's Club of West Milford** donated backpacks to embrella and eight tricky-tray baskets to the NJSFWC summer luncheon at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan. From Thanksgiving through December 2026, the club will mark 50 years

Vice President Ramapo
Continued

of decorating Ringwood Manor for its Victorian Christmas fundraiser.

Members of the **Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** held a **Lunch & Laughs picnic** and donated nine backpacks filled with school supplies to embrella. At their September Welcome Back Brunch, members will discuss club business, including an October Town Hoe Down and "Save a Life" cards for Breast Cancer Awareness.



The **Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River's** annual Baby Shower Drive for Lighthouse Pregnancy Center and Children's Aid & Family Services of Paramus generated more than \$4,000 in donations and 15 designer diaper bags valued at \$3,500. The club's Poetry and Essay Contest enters its 40th year this October, followed by fall community service and social activities.

Vice President, Shore District
Kathleen Reddick
[reddick@njsfwc.org](mailto:redrick@njsfwc.org)

The **Woman's Club of Brick Township** will be recognized by the Brick Chamber of Commerce as its 2026 Community Partner on October 8. The club is also establishing its first Legislation Committee. Upcoming activities include the *Hoedown Homicide* murder mystery on October 1, participation in the Brick Township Craft Fair on October 10, and the sale of shopping passes for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. The club is also selling tickets for its holiday 50/50 raffle and will host its second Merry Mah Jongg

**Vice President, Shore District
Continued**

party on December 4. In addition, the club was pleased to welcome three new members at its August meeting.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** received a certificate recognizing 15 years of membership and a plaque commemorating its 110th anniversary at the Matawan-Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. On October 18, the club will host its annual Farm-to-Table event, featuring a 50/50 raffle and basket auction.



The **Stafford Woman's Club** has an exciting year ahead, with activities such as Bunco, luncheons, bingo, bowling, and more. The club is also forming a new Women in History Committee, which will highlight a woman who has made a significant impact on history each month.

**Vice President, Southern District
Myrna Crawford
crawford@njsfwc.org**

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** held two fundraisers this summer. The first featured a **commemorative coin** celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, with the reverse side honoring Hammonton's 160th anniversary. The second was a 50/50 raffle held in July during the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Festival. The club also donated 200 books to the Free Books Project in Camden.



**Vice President, Southern District
Continued**

The **Millville Woman's Club** will hold a Meet and Greet Orientation Luncheon for new members on September 10. On September 19, the club's choir will present a program for the Fill My Cup Women's Ministry at the United Methodist Church of Port Norris. On September 23, the club will host the Southern Fall District Council Conference.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** participated in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. Members distributed fliers highlighting the club's activities throughout the year. During the summer, the club also hosted a breakfast and luncheon where members could meet and socialize. In addition, a Little Free Library for children's books was installed at a local park.

**Arts & Culture Chairman
Adrienne Fowler
fowler@njsfwc.org**

Autumn started in September and October starts with the leaves changing into their beautiful colors. Take a hint from nature and be creative.

Remember when you were young. You painted leaves and turned them into beautiful paintings. If painting isn't your thing, what about finding an Autumn type picture and color it? Remember adult coloring is one of the Achievement Day categories.

Another thought, what about embroidery or a bargello pillow in fall colors which will complement any home?

You might think Achievement Day is far away BUT this Chairman says get a head start. Remember it takes time to be creative and put out beautiful items. Achievement Day is right around the corner. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Diwali (Diwali is the correct spelling but Divali is the way you pronounce it.), Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, New Year's Eve and Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and then, you guessed it, ACHIEVEMENT DAY!

Arts Performing Chairman

Joyce Dreger

dreger@njsfwc.org

Autumn marks the grand opening of theater, dance and symphony season! It is also the time of year to listen to Autumn's voice ...the wind rustling the dry leaves, the chirping of the crickets, the smells of fresh baked apple pie, the woodsmoke curling out of chimneys and the viewing of Autumn's brilliant colors as trees once again prepare for their winter sleep! Let nature be your inspiration to write your thoughts, your visions into poetry or prose. Share your words by entering the **NJSFWC Member Writing Contest!**

Your writing entries fall into these 6 categories:

1. Poetry: Minimum 8 lines, maximum 50 lines, any style
2. Haiku: 17 syllables (5-7-5) one entry per person
3. Play/Skit One Act: 10-15 minutes
4. Short Story: 2,000-word limit. Please use **Word Count!**
5. Book Review: 2,000-word limit
6. Memoir: 2,000-word limit. Use **Word Count!**

The Rules for your writing entries will be in the yearbook for 2026-2027 under **Project Ideas!**

This Chairman asks you to please read and follow the rules carefully so that your entry will be valid, especially in the formatting of the piece.

The NJSFWC Creative Writing Contest Chairman, Kathy Pavalkis, 17 Dogwood Drive, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902 (e-mail: pavalkisk@gmail.com) must receive TWO copies of each entry with \$1.00 per person/per entry no later than **February 1st**. DO NOT MAIL "REGISTERED" OR "CERTIFIED."

There are writing categories under **Youth Short Story and Poetry** as well under Arts Performing/Project ideas. This Chairman would hope that clubs will sponsor and encourage writing participation within the schools in their Districts.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

Chris Burlew

burlew@njsfwc.org



Operation Jersey Cares Mission Statement aims to honor those men and women who provide us with the blanket of freedom we all sleep so soundly under. OJC will continue to support those who are currently deployed, proud veterans, as well as our loyal military families.

Operation Jersey Cares is based in Flemington. No officers, members, and/or volunteers receive a salary or monetary compensation. In addition to their Holiday Stocking collection, they provide care packages upon request, support veterans in transitional housing, VA hospitals, and many other services.

If you or your club would like to support Operation Jersey Cares financially or become a volunteer, their contact information is on their Facebook page.

Reminders:

Holiday Stockings may be dropped off at Headquarters on Tuesday, October 22nd, Thursday, October 24th, or Tuesday, October 27th from 9 am to 12 pm each of those days.

Don't forget to Vote! Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to vote as well.

Veterans Day is November 11. Always remember our heroes not only on this day but always.



Education & Libraries

Randi Quilici

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FREE for all NJSFWC members!

You're invited to join fellow NJSFWC members for a special statewide Zoom discussion with bestselling author Lisa Wingate, author of *Shelterwood*. Lisa will share insights into her novel, the inspiration behind the story, and the real history that shaped this powerful work of historical fiction. We are also pleased to welcome Monica Bartling, President of the GFWC Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs, who will join us for this special evening.



Shelterwood is inspired by true events in Oklahoma during the early 1900s, including the efforts of reformer Kate Barnard and members of the Oklahoma Federation of Women's Clubs to protect vulnerable children living in the forests and are facing exploitation during Oklahoma's oil boom. While

the characters are fictional, the historical events and background are based on extensive research.

Make It a Club Event! Encourage your club members to read *Shelterwood* together and join us for this special statewide discussion. What a wonderful opportunity to share the experience with fellow NJSFWC members from across New Jersey, and to hear directly from Lisa Wingate and connect with our GFWC colleagues in Oklahoma!

Register by October 22, 2026

Register online: <https://forms.gle/Rrfke1xQ5f5fiPx49>

If you prefer not to use the online form, you may register by emailing Randi Quilici at quilici@njsfwc.org.

The Zoom link and meeting information will be emailed to all registered participants prior to the discussion.

Environment

Rosemarie Woodruff

woodruff@njsfwc.org

October brings colorful fall foliage as leaves shift from vivid green to dazzling shades of yellow and orange. For a free guide to the best times and places to see fall color throughout New Jersey, visit visitnj.org.

Suggested Scenic Routes and Destinations

- **Palisades Interstate Parkway:** Travel this 42-mile scenic route for breathtaking views.
- **Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area:** Explore the mountain tour and enjoy boating along the Delaware River.
- **High Point State Park:** Visit the highest elevation in New Jersey for sweeping seasonal views.
- **New Jersey Botanical Garden:** Enjoy the woodlands tour, featuring 96 acres of gardens and natural areas.
- **Waterloo Village and Lake Hopatcong:** Take a historical tour or enjoy a walk along New Jersey's largest lake.



Each year, the **Woman's Club of Rutherford** in the Palisades District creates its annual scarecrow display across from Town Hall. The Environment Chairman has also seen other clubs sharing their activities on Facebook and would love to hear what your club is doing. Please email your photos—or, better yet, invite her or her District Chairman to attend. We would be happy to join you.

Health & Wellness

Kim Otto

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October is recognized for several important health observances, including **Breast Cancer Awareness Month, ADHD Awareness Month, and Anti-Bullying/Week of Respect**

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** Focuses on early detection, screening, and education about breast cancer, encouraging people to get mammograms and discuss preventive care with their healthcare provider. Learn more about breast cancer at Breastcancer.org and consider signing up for a walk/run that raises funds for research at www.komen.org
- **Health Literacy Month:** Highlights the importance of understanding health information and making informed health decisions, with resources for both professionals and the public

<https://odphp.health.gov/myhealthfinder>

- **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** Raises awareness about domestic violence and provides resources for support and prevention. Contact the Domestic Violence Awareness Project at website <http://www.dvaawareness.org/>
- **ADHD Awareness Month:** Promotes understanding of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and supports individuals and families affected by ADHD. Groups can partner with the CDC to use their ADHD Awareness Toolkit to find resources tailored to the needs of families, healthcare providers, and educators via the link <https://www.cdc.gov/adhd/php/across-the-lifetime-toolkit/index.html>
- **National Bullying Prevention Month** is observed in October, aligning with New Jersey's official Week of Respect (NJ mandate). The law mandates districts and charter schools to provide age-appropriate harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) prevention and instruction and empower school safety teams. Find Anti-Bullying at

Health & Wellness

Continued

- <https://gardenstateequality.org/training-and-services/>
- **HIV/AIDS Awareness in Latinx Communities:** Is observed every year on October 15th. It falls on the final day of National Hispanic Heritage Month and focuses on education, prevention, testing, and support for affected communities and ending stigma. Project ideas: Promote HIV testing to know status and share prevention tools like PrEP and harm reduction strategies. An excellent resource is <https://toolkits/national-latinx-aids-awareness-day-toolkit/>

Advocates for Children Chairman

Carol Winkler

winkler@njsfwc.org

Advocates for Children is a GFWC Juniors' Special Program which is meant to encourage Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. It was envisioned that this program would encourage clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and caregivers to advocate for children.



Each year, GFWC designates the fourth week in October as **GFWC Advocates for Children Week** and this year it is the week of October 25 to October 31.

During this week, many clubs do special projects to benefit children. A potential project for your club would be to coordinate with your local police department to determine if they could use new stuffed animals that would be in their patrol cars to have in order to calm and distract children in stressful or traumatic situations. It would be a great way to not only advocate for children but to also partner with your local law enforcement.

Communications Chairman

Katie Chambers

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Our new podcast, New Jersey Women's Clubs, is here! If you haven't listened to our first episode, it's a great conversation with NSJFWC President Susan Chambers about her new administration and initiatives. Keep an eye on the E-Connection for links to future episodes, and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts! We are on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Facebook, and more.



Thank you to all who attended last month's AI workshop! Love it, hate it, or fear it, it seems artificial intelligence – in some form – is here to stay with us. Every month, this Chairman will offer a tip in the ALMANAC on just how you can incorporate AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Copilot into your club work to make things a little easier.

At the workshop, we covered how AI can:

- Give volunteers a starting point instead of a blank page.
- Reduce time spent on repetitive administrative work.
- Help one volunteer accomplish work that might otherwise require several people.
- Make it easier for someone to take over a committee when another volunteer steps down.
- Help members who aren't confident writers communicate more professionally.
- Give small clubs access to capabilities that previously required hiring or finding a writer, designer, marketing person, or consultant.
- Free volunteers to spend more time doing the work of the club and less time doing paperwork about the work of the club.

Remember, AI cannot replace a human – not that we would ever want it to. Don't ask AI to do your job. Ask AI to *help you* do your job. You can watch the recording of the AI Workshop [here on our YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9XIqQhE4zA&feature=youtu.be).

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9XIqQhE4zA&feature=youtu.be>)

THE 1894 SOCIETY

The NJSFWC Headquarters Building, built with trading stamps, is located on land leased from Rutgers University. The Federation's lease with Rutgers sets the rental amount at a percentage of the value of the land. The value of land has increased. The 1894 Society was initiated in 2002 in an effort to build a fund that will enable the NJSFWC to meet any increase that may be assessed by Rutgers

*Purchase your trading stamp pin today
With a donation of \$60 to Headquarters
while supplies last.*



Historian

Jean Battaglia

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It is time to consider a historical theme for your club's observance of Membership Week at your November meeting. Combine history and membership by sharing memories from long time members – why did they join the club, what is the first thing they remember from a club activity, what was the most fun, what was one of the big successes, and the list goes on. Some may be reluctant to talk or find it hard to think of an answer on the spot when asked at the meeting, so prepare in advance. Ask for volunteers to interview the members and then have either the volunteer or the member report. Ask others to chime in if they have something to add. As time goes on and members may be at a stage where they can do less and may start to feel forgotten, this gets them back in the mix.

The GFWC Club Manual has a section titled "Women's History and Resource Center," starting on page 223. There you will find information on projects from other clubs, the GFWC collections, GFWC resources to support your club, and project ideas. Visit GFWC.org to access the Manual.



Legislation and Resolution
June Witty
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Protecting Our Children in the Digital Age

Our children are growing up in a digital world. Smartphones, social media, online games and other technology provide education, communication and entertainment, but they can also expose children to cyberbullying, inappropriate content, online exploitation, privacy violations and addictive online practices.

As members of the NJSFWC we have an important role in educating our communities and advocating for the safety and well-being of children.

NJ Takes Action

NJ recently took an important step with the **NJ Kids Code Act (A4015/S3413)**. The legislation establishes age-appropriate privacy and safety standards for online services used by children and teens. It addresses the collection and use of children's personal information, online safety settings, unwanted contacts and practices designed to keep young users online for extended periods. This bill passed both Houses of NJ Legislature and was signed into law this August 2026. This legislation is an important accomplishment, but protecting children online requires more than legislation.

What can you and your Club do?

Educate. Invite a school technology specialist, counselor, law-enforcement officer or child-safety professional to speak at a Club meeting.

Inform parents and caregivers. Share resources about privacy settings, parental controls, cyberbullying and online exploitation.

Partner with the community. Work with schools, libraries and youth organizations to promote responsible and safe technology use.

Stay informed and advocate. Follow legislation affecting children through the NJ Legislature and GFWC Legislative Action Center.

Legislation and Resolutions Continued

Most importantly, encourage adults to talk openly with children about online experiences. Children need to know that they can turn to a trusted adult when something online makes them uncomfortable or afraid.

Currently Meta Platforms in a landmark trial brought by multiple states' Attorney Generals are focusing on the addictive design of Instagram and Facebook. Club members should follow this closely.

Special State Project – embrella
Kathy Marino
marino@njsfwc.org



The Backpack Project was a huge success! Clubwomen donated **567 filled backpacks** in time for children to return to school. Embrella employees arrived with a truck to collect the backpacks and were astonished when they saw the mountain of backpacks at Headquarters! They were extremely thankful for the generosity of our clubwomen.

The Fall Holiday Gift Project is now underway. Gift idea lists were distributed to the SSP District Chairmen and District Vice Presidents at the September District Councils which included the specific items requested by embrella. As a reminder, holiday gifts should be brought to Headquarters **on or before December 7th** so embrella can pick them up for distribution.

Gift cards are always welcome, especially for teenagers. Suggested gift cards include Visa, Mastercard, Walmart, Target, Amazon, Sephora, GameStop, DoorDash, and Uber. Checks collected must be made payable to **NJSFWC**, with a notation of **"embrella,"** and mailed to NJSFWC Headquarters.

For questions, please contact the SSP Chairman at marino@njsfwc.org or call 908-244-8902. As always, a big **thank you** to all our clubwomen for their continued support and generosity!

Day of Service
Christine Novack
novack@njsfwc.org

This year our NJSFWC Day of Service will be held on Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2027. Our project will focus on food insecurity. As you know, the number of our neighbors who cannot afford to feed themselves and their families is growing.

Each club is being asked to contact their local food bank, homeless shelter, Ronald McDonald House, or other charitable organization to find out what would help their clients the most. It may be that they would like you to concentrate on collecting certain items such as peanut butter or canned tuna or chicken. Proteins are often in short supply. Perhaps they need volunteers to prepare or serve meals.



Some organizations may have a special relationship with grocery stores that might offer to increase the value of gift cards. Please be creative. You won't know the specific need if you don't ask!

Depending on what type of project your club chooses, it may take more than one day to complete. On the Day of Service, each club will complete their project and report their project details to this Chairman. A report form is included in this ALMANAC.

For further information, please contact this Chairman at novack@njsfwc.org. She looks forward to working with members to assist those in need.

Parliamentary Consultant To Clubs
Maribeth Hugelmeyer
Hugelmeyer@njsfwc.org

Meetings and Agendas

The President prepares the agenda and distributes a copy to each of her Board members well in advance of the meeting (about one week). A copy should be emailed to each club member when the Minutes of the previous meeting is sent out with the CALL for the next meeting (about one week prior). If a member does not have email, a copy of the agenda, minutes and the CALL should be mailed to her. A few copies of the minutes and agenda should be available at the meeting.

The Standard Order of Business is as follows:

- Approval of the Minutes (either read or circulated)
- Reports of Officers, Standing Committees and Special Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business

Our club agendas should read:

- Call to Order
- Opening Ceremonies (this includes the Collect, Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America, and perhaps a patriotic song)
- Approval of Minutes (must be read if not sent out to members)
- Reports of Officers, Standing Committees, Special Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Closing the Meeting/Adjourn (Once all items of business have been discussed, the chair may ask "Is there any further business?" If there is no response the chair can adjourn the meeting. No motion is needed.)

REMEMBER: Before the meeting begins, it is imperative that a count is made to ensure that a **quorum** is present. A quorum is the minimum number of members who must be present to conduct substantive business. The quorum number should be found in your club's bylaws.