ALMANAC

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

November 2026



The holidays are rapidly approaching, and with them come chilly weather and days inside. Once the holiday rush begins, if we're lucky, we have some time to relax and unwind. But do Federation Sisters ever stop their work? Of course not! We've got Year End Reports to write, books to read, performances to plan, artistic projects to create, and plants to grow. And clubs have communities locally, nationally and internationally that need our help.

This ALMANAC gives you and your club members lots of juicy tidbits to help you fulfill your plans. Interested in helping children but don't know where to start? Check out the articles on Advocates for Children and also our Special State Project. Going to hold a raffle? Need to renew your 501(c)3? Check out the Financial Secretary's article. Is the environment your thing? Go to the Environment article to see what's happening with wildlife in New Jersey. Do you love reading? Look at the Education and Libraries article for a great way to share your love. There's something for everyone in this issue.

This month, and every month, we give thanks to our veterans for their service. And this Officer wishes all her Federation Sisters and their loved ones a peaceful season of giving thanks for the many blessings we share.

In Federation Friendship,

Susie

Susan Chambers
NJSFWC President
NJSFWC: A Force for Good

In this issue:

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

Being a leader in a club is more than holding an office—it is the willingness to listen, learn, encourage others, and take action. Every NJSFWC member can be a leader by sharing ideas, supporting club projects, welcoming new members, and helping make a difference in our communities.



Successful and effective leaders and club members can stay informed. Members can visit the NJSFWC website at njsfwc.org for bulletins, the *NJSFWC monthly ALMANAC*, all state materials, project ideas, forms, and other helpful resources. Members may also sign up for weekly **NJSFWC eConnections** through the Materials section of the website. These communications provide timely news, announcements, opportunities, and updates from the Federation. Members who need assistance may contact any state board member using their **lastname@njsfwc.org**, such as sienkielewski@njsfwc.org.

When we stay connected and informed, we strengthen our clubs and expand our ability to serve. Leadership begins with one member, one idea, and one step forward.

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



Report Writing Materials Are Available. At the end of September, each club president received a Report Writing packet. The packet includes the 2026 NJSFWC Report Worksheets, a Valuation Guide for assigning dollar values to in-kind donations, and *Where Should We Report It*.

These documents will also be posted in the Materials section of the NJSFWC website so clubs can print additional copies as needed. Clubs do not need to wait until January 1 to review the materials, share them with members, or begin entering information for projects already completed.

First Vice President Continued

Start gathering project information now. If your club already keeps project records throughout the year, continue using that system. If your club does not yet have a process, use the report forms as a simple way to collect information from members.

- Attach a blank sheet of paper to each report.
- Circulate the reports among your members.
- Ask members to list each project, the hours they contributed, and any in-kind donations they made.

This shared review helps capture work that may have been overlooked and leads to a more complete and accurate report.

Project narratives. REMEMBER: Writing narratives is important to keep the history of your club as well as bragging to the State about what you have accomplished. Clubs are again asked to attach no more than two sheets of paper with project narratives that provide a fuller description of their work.

And don't forget to include a **Narrative** for each project! Your narratives are a wonderful opportunity to highlight your club's hard work, community impact,

Report Writing Workshop. Thank you to everyone who attended the October workshop. If you were unable to attend, please consider joining the Zoom Report Writing Workshop on November 18th. The Zoom session will cover the same information presented in October. To receive the Zoom details, please RSVP to this Officer at dahl@njsfwc.org.

NJSFWC Second Vice President,
Linda Carbley
carbley@njsfwc.org



As the holidays approach, it's a great time to look back at your club's accomplishments and review all membership projects completed from **January 1 through December 31, 2026**.

Start gathering your information now so you'll be ready to complete **your** Project Writing Reports, which are due by February 1, 2027.

Second Vice President (Continued)

And don't forget to include a **Narrative** for each project! Your narratives are a wonderful opportunity to highlight your club's hard work, community impact, and the difference your members made throughout the year.

A little preparation now will make reporting a whole lot easier later!

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

NJSFWC Treasurer
Linda Hrycenko
hrycenko@njsfwc.org



It's now November and most clubs have had fundraising projects or events. This Treasurer would like to address one of the questions that is frequently asked about managing accounts after a fundraiser.

Let's suppose your club has spent a lot of time planning, and they were able to hold a successful and profitable event or program. It's now time for the treasurer to do her thing. After the Treasurer has deposited the money in the bank, she now needs to distribute the funds into the proper accounts. If the fundraiser has been earmarked for a particular charity or publicized for a particular cause, the money must be credited to that account. It must be used for the purpose you publicized; it can never be used for operating expenses.

The need for additional funding for a club's operating expenses is one that is faced by many of us. If a club needs additional funding, they can go to the public or hold a fundraiser specifically for that purpose. A club is also allowed to take a small percentage of a fundraising event for administrative purposes, typically 10%. Remember, if a fundraiser has been publicized, the money must be deposited into that account.

This Treasurer hopes this information helps answer some of your concerns. Your hard work has already been done. Working together to answer questions makes your club stronger and makes the NJSFWC stronger. 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 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.

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's 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
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The **Metuchen Edison Woman's Club** hosted a comedy night in October, with proceeds benefiting embrella. Members continue to volunteer at Bingo for the Vets and a local food bank. They are also collecting coats for NJ Cares and toys for Toys for Tots again this year.

The **Franklin Woman's Club** Environment Committee is planning a fall foliage tour of Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island for November 5 or 7. The club continues its advocacy regarding

College District (Continued)

the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) project following a court hearing that vacated the water permits.

For the GFWC Day of Service, the **Bridgewater Woman's Club** supported the local women's shelter, Safe & Sound. In response to the shelter's request for pajamas, the club purchased 83 pairs valued at more than $1,300. The club hopes to raise $6,000 for its Charity Fund through its fall fundraiser, "The Singing Florist," on November 15.



Vice President, Garden District
Cheryl Fairchild
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The **Woman's Club of Penns Grove/Carney's Point** participated in Operation Holiday Stocking by sewing 25 pink stockings that were filled with items for female soldiers. The stockings included greeting cards that were handmade by Salem County ARC. The club purchases the cards from ARC throughout the year to support ARC's activities. The club also collects used greeting cards and monetary funds throughout the year that are donated to Salem County ARC.

The **Haddon Fortnightly** Annual Gift Card Fundraiser is in full swing with tickets costing $2.00 each, and the raffle prize is $500.00 worth of gift cards. Tickets are sold by club members and at community events throughout the fall. The drawing will take place on November 20, and the winner need not be present. Last year's raffle raised $4,000.00. The club hopes to exceed last year's proceeds.

The **Woman's Club of Pitman** is holding their Bi-annual Spirit of Christmas House Tour on December 5th. The tour includes 8 historic homes decorated for the season, the Borough Hall and several churches. Tickets are $12.00 and are available from various businesses in town. Proceeds benefit scholarships and service programs.

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

The **Past Presidents Club – 10th District** Club celebrated their 100th Anniversary.

The **Roxbury Woman's Club** holds a Crafters Group and Social Time at the Roxbury Public Library. Sponsored by the Arts & Culture department of the club every, third Thursday of the month, members are encouraged to bring projects to work on and spend time catching up with each other in an informal setting.

The **Sparta Woman's Club** members gather at the VFW to decorate two large wreaths to be displayed at the front entrance to Newton Memorial Hospital for their Annual Festival of Lights. Members enjoy tying greenery and decorations to these two huge wreaths while playing holiday music and having fun. These wreaths are then displayed throughout the holiday season for everyone to enjoy.



The **Thursday Morning Club** hosted a "Wise Wonderful Women" Brunch lecture on Thursday, October 15. The guest speaker was Kathryn McManus who started a business for students interested in performance arts education, mainly vocal ad choreography. Her 'Ambassador" group performed for the audience.

Vice President, Liberty District
Vivien Finn
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Congratulations to the **Junior Woman's Club of Verona** as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. Generations of members have worked to support the needs of Verona residents through service, volunteerism, civic engagement, and community building. Today, their members continue that legacy through programs including Verona Fights Hunger Week, Adopt a Family Program, the Spelling Bee, Senior Dinner, Nurses Pantry, and Scholarships for High School Seniors.

Liberty District (Continued)



Junior Woman's Club of Verona

The **Arlington Woman's Club EMD** supports the community through several holiday civic engagement and service initiatives. For teens the club donates holiday gifts to the Kearny Chapter of the Salvation Army. Alaris Health and other long-term rehabilitation and nursing care facilities are provided with calendars and puzzle books. The club also gives each participant of Meals on Wheels a card and a lottery scratch-off ticket.

The **Woman's Club of Little Falls** collects books and toys for Toys for Tots. They also collected and delivered pajamas to the pediatric department at St. Joseph's Hospital. And, for fun, they meet once a month at a local restaurant for dinner.

Vice President, Palisades District
Shelley Rothstein
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The **Book and Needle Club of Oradell** is holding a Mega 50/50 raffle, with tickets available for $10. Proceeds will support the club's charitable donations. The club also participated in the Oradell Fall Festival, where representatives hosted an information table, spoke with visitors about the club, and welcomed prospective new members.

The **New Milford Woman's Club** held a "Getting to Know You" event during a recent meeting. Members displayed items reflecting their interests, including hobbies, photographs, plants, and collections. Two members also shared a personal story or memory, giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about the club's wonderful members!

Palisades District (Continued)

The **Woman's Club of Old Tappan** hosted a table at Old Tappan Town Day, where members raffled off five chrysanthemum plants to attendees. The club also held its annual Ragamuffin Parade on Halloween Day. Members are now hard at work planning their December Breakfast with Santa, a beloved yearly tradition.

Vice President, Ramapo District
Maria Kent
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The **Woman's Club of West Milford Township's** members will spend the month of November decorating for their Victorian Christmas fundraiser. The club is celebrating the 50th year anniversary of decorating the Ringwood Manor for the Victorian Christmas fundraiser from Thanksgiving through December 2026. This year, they will expand their fundraising event to four weekends and will hold three weekends of evening concerts to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The **Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** launched its Domestic Violence Project by beginning deliveries to **Strengthen Our Sisters**. Club members continue to collect silverware, plates, bowls, food-storage containers, twin-size sheets and blankets, body wash, hand lotion, and dish detergent. The club will also distribute "Save a Life" breast cancer awareness cards, which remind women to schedule mammograms, at the public library and at its booth during the town Hoe Down event.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River** held its annual Baby Shower Drive benefiting Lighthouse Pregnancy Center and Children's Aid & Family Services of Paramus. The drive generated more than $4,000 in donations and 15 designer diaper bags valued at $3,500. This October, the club's Poetry and Essay Contest will enter its 40th year.

Vice President, Shore District
Kathleen Reddick
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The **Women's Club of Brick Township** has launched Cubs for Causes, featuring handmade bear cubs priced at $35–$45, with proceeds from each design supporting a designated cause. America 250 cubs benefited active military personnel and Operation Holiday Stocking, while high school cubs will support scholarships. Members have made more than 125 cubs since May, often reusing cleaned stuffing from donated or secondhand pillows. Nearly 50 cubs have already sold, with more available at the October craft fair and on the club's website under Cubs for Causes.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** began the season with several service projects, filling backpacks for embrella and ECF, donating toys to Operation Smile, and stuffing military stockings. Community members supported its GFWC Day of Service collection at Matawan Day. The club also welcomed three prospective members at an orientation, hosted a successful Games Luncheon—with another planned—and enjoyed its annual sold-out Farm to Table Dinner featuring a home-cooked fall menu.

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** collected more than 950 school supplies and $200 for embrella and local Panthers, promoted the club at the Seafood Festival, and hosted several successful fundraisers. Members continue to collect shoes, food, aluminum tabs, stuffed animals, winter accessories, and military donations. For the GFWC Day of Service, they gathered books for children at Providence House. The club also partnered with the VFW for a Veterans Day service featuring a WWII veteran film and Vietnam artifacts and created more than 100 patriotic flyers with children's handprints through its Small Hands Big Thanks project.



Vice President, Southern District
Myrna Crawford
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The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** enjoyed a busy summer, hosting two successful fundraisers. The first featured a commemorative coin celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States, with the reverse side honoring Hammonton's 160th Anniversary. The club also held a 50/50 raffle in July during the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Festival. In addition, members donated 200 books to the Free Books Project in Camden.

The **Millville Woman's Club** had a Meet and Greet Orientation Luncheon for new club members on September 10th. September 19th found their choir presenting a program for the Fill My Cup Women's Ministry of the United Methodist Church of Port Norris. On September 23rd they hosted the Southern Fall District Council Conference.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** participated in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th. Fliers were distributed which highlighted the club activities held throughout the year. During the summer they had a breakfast and a luncheon for members to meet and socialize. A Little Library was installed at a local park for children's books.

Arts & Culture Chairman
Adrienne Fowler
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Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is a time for friends and family to get together, have a few laughs, maybe something to drink, watch football or the parade or both. It is also a good time to practice your baking for Achievement Day. Everyone loves a good pie.

To help you on your way, here is an apple pie recipe. Work on it now and you will have it all down pat when Achievement Day comes around.

Easy Apple Pie (See recipe)

Ingredients

For the pastry:

- 2 cup flour
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 2/3 cup butter, chopped
- 2-3 tbsp ice water

For the filling:

- 7-8 apples peeled
- 2 tbsp water
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 egg lightly beaten

Instructions:

Make the pastry: Put the flour, sugar, and butter in a food processor until it looks like fine breadcrumbs.

1. Slowly add the ice water. Knead the dough and form into a ball on a lightly floured surface.
2. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap. Chill it in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.
   Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease a 9-inch pie dish, set aside.
3. Put the apples and water in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir often for about 5 minutes, until the apples start to soften.
4. Stir in the sugar, lemon juice, and cinnamon.
5. Divide the dough into two pieces: a larger piece for the bottom crust and a smaller piece for the top crust. Roll each piece until it is about ⅛ inch thick.
6. Place the larger piece in the pie dish. Press it gently into the bottom and sides, then trim off any extra dough.
7. Drain extra liquid from the apples. Spoon the apples into the pie dish and spread them out evenly.
8. Place the smaller piece over the apples. Pinch the edges together to seal the pie.
9. Brush the beaten egg on the top
10. Cut 3 or 4 small slits in the top crust.
11. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, until the crust is light golden brown and crisp.



Civic Engagement & Outreach (Continued)

Arts Performing Chairman
Joyce Dreger
dreger@njsfwc.org

We are officially in the BER months and as Mark Twain so aptly wrote: “The secret of getting ahead is getting started.” This Chair hopes that all Districts have started planning for their Arts Performing Days! It is always thrilling to witness the talent that this Federation has to offer, and this Chair is anticipating your invitations! Performances can be as simple as reciting a poem or reading some jokes that may be found online (with context discretion please!) or skits that are original or readily available online! Sometimes, there is no need to reinvent the wheel!

There are many interesting possibilities for theater and concert enjoyment coming up. **The Mayo Performing Arts in Morristown** has a list of performances by Paul Anka, Judy Collins, Art Garfunkel as well as the Charlie Brown Christmas live on stage performances. **NJPAC** is presenting Ben Vereen’s 80th Birthday concert, and Gwen Stefani will be appearing at the **Borgata** in Atlantic City on the 20th of November! **The State Theater** in New Brunswick will be featuring: A Christmas Story: The Musical, A Magical Cirque Christmas and The Irish Tenors!

Please remember to consult the NJSFWC website and the Project Ideas for Arts Performing information particularly deadlines for the Adult and Youth writing submissions.

Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman
Chris Burlew
burlew@njsfwc.org

Founded in 1994, Soldier On is a nonprofit organization that provides housing and support services to help end veteran homelessness. Their goal is to help veterans retain stability, dignity, and independence after military service. They offer emergency shelters, and both traditional and permanent housing. Soldier On operates sustainable housing models where the veterans can transition from homelessness to home ownership.

They also provide mental health counseling, addiction recovery treatment, and medical/dental coordination. Daily support includes case management, meals, clothing, and transportation to

medical appointments. Employment training, educational help, and financial assistance are also available. Their major housing facility is in Tinton Falls with 70 units of affordable, supportive housing. Soldier On has collaborated on additional regional veterans housing projects in Edison, Hoboken, West Deptford, and Woodbridge.

Although their main headquarters is in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the New Jersey Administrative/Regional Office is in Hamilton, NJ.

Education & Libraries Chairman
Randi Quilici
quilici@njsfwc.org

Thank you to everyone who joined our October Zoom Book Discussion featuring author Lisa Wingate, GFWC International President Wendy Carriker, and GFWC Oklahoma President Monica Bartling. We enjoyed an inspiring evening of conversation about *Shelterwood* and its powerful story. Thank you for making this special program a success!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a wonderful literacy initiative that may be of interest to clubs looking to add a children's literacy organization to their charitable giving.

The Imagination Library provides children from **birth to age five** with **one high-quality, age-appropriate book each month**, mailed directly to their homes. The books are provided **free to families, regardless of income**, helping make books and the joy of reading accessible to young children.

Since its founding, the program has delivered millions of books to children and continues to encourage a love of reading while helping families build home libraries. Each book is carefully selected for the child's age and developmental stage, providing opportunities for children and parents to share the joy of reading together.

For clubs interested in supporting early childhood literacy, **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library may be an organization to consider when reviewing or expanding their charitable giving.** Clubs interested in learning more about the program and the opportunities available in their communities are encouraged to visit the organization's official website

Environment (Continued)

Education & Libraries (Continued)

for additional information at https://imaginationlibrary.com/?utm source=chatgpt.com. If you would like the names of the four Community Partners in NJ, please contact this Chairman.

Supporting literacy can take many forms, whether through books, libraries, schools, literacy programs, or organizations that help put books into the hands of children. Our clubs have wonderful opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young people by encouraging reading and helping children develop a lifelong love of books.

Environment Chairman
Rosemarie Woodruff
woodruff@nsfwc.org

November is already here. When we think of November, Thanksgiving comes up. This is when we hear about the turkey. In New Jersey, wild turkeys are more than a holiday symbol—they are a thriving part of our local wildlife. More than 21,000 wild turkeys now live across the state. Some are even appearing in our own neighborhoods. One wild turkey was spotted walking past this chairman's window in Rutherford.

New Jersey is home to several inspiring wildlife comeback stories. These species, once rare or absent in parts of the state, are now being seen again in our communities, parks, forests, and waterways.

1. **American black bear:** Black bears have returned across New Jersey and are now found in all twenty-one counties. One even visited the town of Lyndhurst.
2. **Bobcat:** Bobcats are most often seen in the northern part of the state.
3. **Fisher:** This member of the weasel family has also made a return.
4. **Bald eagle:** Bald eagles have become one of New Jersey's most recognizable conservation success stories.
5. **Osprey:** Ospreys are once again thriving near many of our waterways.
6. **White-tailed deer:** Deer remain a familiar part of New Jersey's landscape.
7. **Wild turkey:** Wild turkeys had disappeared from New Jersey but have made a strong return.
8. **Beaver:** Beavers are once again shaping wetland habitats throughout the state.

Have any of our clubwomen encountered one of these animals in their own community? Please share your story at our next meeting or consider writing about your experience for a future club update.

Health & Wellness Chairman
Kim Otto
otto@njsfwc.org

November is recognized for several important health observations including Diabetes Awareness Month and Diabetic Eye Disease Month.

- **Diabetes Awareness Month** is observed every November to raise public awareness, promote public understanding, promote prevention and support for those living with diabetes.
- What can we do?
  - Ask local businesses or town landmarks to light up in blue-the official diabetes awareness color.
  - Wear Blue Days: Encourage friends, family, and coworkers to wear blue or display the blue circle awareness symbol.
  - Host or join local fitness events to promote physical activity and raise money for research through the American Diabetes Association.

- **Diabetic Eye Disease Month** is observed every November to educate the public on how diabetes affects vision and the importance of early detection.

Diabetes is a leading cause of preventable blindness and vision loss among adults

About half of people with diabetes will eventually develop diabetic retinopathy.

Proactive Steps: get dilated eye exams.

Keep your A1C, blood pressure and cholesterol in the target range.

Disclaimer: All information provided in this ALMANAC Article is for educational and informative purposes only. It is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek medical treatment from your healthcare providers.

Communications (Continued)

Advocates for Children Chairman
Carol Winkler
winkler@njsfwc.org

It may seem early, but the holidays are almost here. While Thanksgiving is imminent, many of us are also thinking about the December holidays and starting to plan. For children especially, the holidays are full of anticipation. Many organizations collect holiday items for children starting in November since they need them by early December in order to organize and distribute them. Clubs can help to make a brighter Christmas season by helping to fulfill a child's wishes.

Many members will remember Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, our Special State Project for 2022-24. It is a New Jersey organization that supports families facing pediatric cancer. As they have in the past, they have an Amazon list of items that the children they support would like. The link is https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/LZP7G41SUR49?type=wishlist It would be nice for Clubs to again help this worthwhile group.

EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION
SUPPORT FOR KIDS WITH CANCER AND THEIR FAMILIES

Other opportunities include checking with your town to see if they have a Social Services Office as they may know of a local family who has children and could use assistance in fulfilling the children's wishes. There are also national organizations like Toys for Tots that have local collection sites around the holidays. Whatever your Club chooses to do, know that you are making some child's holiday special.

Communications Chairman
Katie Chambers
chambers2@njsfwc.org

Remember to check out our New Jersey Women's Clubs Podcast! You can subscribe wherever you get your podcasts, including YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts. It's also available on our Facebook page, with links to all episodes and ways to subscribe under the NEWS tab on our website.

To further your professional development, we've also added a new Workshops landing page to the website, under the Membership tab. Here you can watch recordings of all our latest virtual workshops, including September's AI Workshop.

Speaking of AI, here are your monthly tips to make AI work for you. AI can boost club **communications and writing**. Use it to:

- Draft **press releases** for club events, fundraisers, awards, scholarships and community projects
- Turn a few bullet points into a polished **newsletter article**
- Write **emails to members** about upcoming meetings, events, reminders and announcements
- Create **thank you letters** for speakers, donors, volunteers and community partners
- Draft **invitations** for meetings, luncheons, fundraisers and special events
- Rewrite an email to make it **warmer, more professional, shorter or easier to understand**
- Proofread newsletters, letters and announcements
- Turn a long announcement into several shorter communications
- Create **talking points** for a club president or committee chairman
- Draft speeches for installations, awards ceremonies, luncheons and special events

The more information you provide in your AI prompt, the better the results. Watch the AI Workshop recording to learn how to improve your AI "conversation skills" to get the results you want!

And don't forget: we want to highlight your club's amazing work! Email updates and photos to facebook@njsfwc.org so we can share on the @NJSFWC Facebook and Instagram pages.

Legislation & Resolutions (Continued)

Convention Chairman
Tina Ree
ree@njsfwc.org

As we get ready for the holidays, it is a good time to start thinking about Convention.

Before you know it, another year will have passed, and the call will be sent out. We again will be at the **Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.** This will be the 133rd year NJSFWC has held a convention for people to meet, learn and gather with friends from other Districts from across the state.

Workshops are being planned, speakers are being secured and arrangements are being made with the Hard Rock Hotel for the food and fun. A craft workshop will be given by Marie Sullivan, a wonderful crafter from the **Palisades District** and member of the **Woman's Club of Paramus.**

So, mark your calendars for **May 3-5, 2027.** It will be a time for us to promote good deeds, good times and to meet up with good friends.

This Chairman and the **NJSFWC** State Board are looking forward to seeing you there. More information will be forthcoming in future ALMANAC articles.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Enjoy!

Legislation & Resolutions Chairman
June Witty
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GFWC Legislative Update

GFWC in a legislative update requested members to act on a Bill that would provide honorary veterans' status for the women who answered the call to serve during WW11. Here is why we should act.

During World War II, a severe nursing shortage threatened the nation. In response, Congress established the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in 1943. This pioneering federal program trained over 124,000 young women, rapidly filling a desperate void in domestic healthcare while releasing experienced nurses for active military duty.

In exchange for an accelerated nursing education, the government covered tuition, fees, and books. Cadets received a distinctive uniform and a monthly stipend, pledging to serve in essential military or civilian nursing roles for the duration of the war. They provided up to 80 percent of the nursing care in participating hospitals, successfully preventing the collapse of the home front healthcare system. Despite their vital contributions, these trailblazers were never granted official veteran status. Today, their legacy transitions from a proud history into a critical focus for contemporary advocacy.

GFWC members are urged to respond to the GFWC Legislative Action Center alert urging Congress to enact the **U.S. Cadet Nurse Service Recognition Act**. This bipartisan bill provides honorary veteran status, honorable discharges, a service medal, a burial plaque or grave marker, and other well-deserved commendations to the more than 124,000 women who answered the call during WWII.



https://www.gfwc.org/legislative-action/

As members of the NJSFWC look back on historic pillars of service, supporting this legislation stands as a powerful continuation of collective female patriotism. Please visit the GFWC VoterVoice Portal today to contact your representatives. Your action ensures these home-front heroes finally secure their rightful, honored place in America's story. As a side note these women are now 90-100 years old, time is of the essence.

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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.

Membership Form in this ALMANAC.

Day of Service Chairman
Special State Project Chairman
Kathy Marino
marino@njsfwc.org

The Holiday Gift Project is on a roll. As a reminder, holiday gifts should be brought to Headquarters **on or before December 7th** so embrella can pick them up for distribution. Gift idea lists for tweens and teens, featuring specific items requested by embrella, have been distributed to the Special State Project District Chairmen as well as sent to the Club Presidents through the District Vice President.



Only new unwrapped gifts will be accepted, and if the item needs batteries, please include them with the gift. As you shop for those last-minute gifts, please refer to the gift idea list for suggestions. As a friendly reminder, please be sure to attach the completed inventory sheet to each bundle of gifts. **Gift cards are always welcome,** with a recommended value of **$25 to $50.** 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!

Christine Novak
novak@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 novak@njsfwc.org. She looks forward to working with members to assist those in need.