



# GFWC OF NORTH CAROLINA

## AN ORIENTATION TO FEDERATION

### You and the Federation

We are pleased with your interest in the Federation and would like to share more about how you can be a part of this organization, as well as provide you with a deeper understanding of what the Federation represents. The Federation provides an opportunity for the development of talents, abilities, and skills for each clubwoman who participates. The many opportunities afforded through club work provide a threshold from which each individual can develop an overall awareness and deeper perspective of community, state, national, and world events – which affect our quality of life.

### GFWC

After being denied entry to a banquet honoring Charles Dickens in 1868, Jane Cunningham Croly decided to create a club for women that would “manage its own affairs, represent as far as possible the active interests of women, and create a bond of friendship between them.” This club was named Sorosis. This idea spread quickly and united women across the nation. On April 24, 1890, women from 18 states created the General Federation of Women’s Clubs – an organization to promote their interests, a network for communication, and a focus of support.

GFWC consists of international federations (over 20 countries) and associations in addition to the federations of the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico. The 52 U.S. federations are divided into 8 regions. North Carolina is a member of the Southeastern Region (SER), which also includes Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Each region has officers and holds a separate meeting each fall and at the GFWC Convention.

The programs of GFWC are carried out through six Community Service Programs – Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, and Public Issues – and through special projects including the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. Many of the projects are co-sponsored by other organizations, foundations, and interests, which often provide cash awards to clubs reporting the best work in those areas. GFWC also supplies program material for local clubs and sponsors workshops on such topics as leadership, public relations, and protocol.

One ongoing project of the GFWC is the Women’s History and Resource Center, located at the GFWC Headquarters and dedicated in 1984 during the term of North Carolina’s own Juanita Bryant, GFWC President 1982-1984. In addition to the archives and files of GFWC, it is a repository for other material on women as volunteers and volunteer projects in America.

Further information on GFWC and GFWC materials is available from GFWC Headquarters.

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GFWC-NC: Dedicated To Community Improvement Through Volunteer Service. Since 1902

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## An Orientation to Federation

### GFWC-NC

The North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in May of 1902, when representatives of seven clubs met at Salem College in Winston-Salem to "unite the Women's Club of North Carolina into a statewide charitable organization for the promotion of education and activities in civic, cultural, educational, and social welfare for the betterment of the State of North Carolina." The name of the organization was changed in May of 1998 to GFWC of North Carolina, Inc. to better identify GFWC-NC with its parent organization.

### History of Service by GFWC-NC since 1902

- Was a charter member of the NC Council for Women's Organizations
- Funds an annual four-year Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship
- Was a driving force behind the North Carolina Zoo
- Provided \$70,000 to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation for pavilion construction
- Donated \$90,000 to NC Aquariums
- Provided 17 million meals to food insecure children in NC

### Structure

The purpose of the GFWC-NC club work is to respond to the needs of people through community service and to offer opportunities for growth and development to its member. The GFWC-NC program is varied, with many projects and emphases. Each club determines to what extent it will use the program suggestions and support the various projects.

GFWC-NC is composed of local clubs, which can be General (all ages), Junior (45 years of age and under), General with a Junior or Night Department, or Juniette (middle or high school students). GFWC-NC is chartered as a nonprofit corporation by the State of North and is tax-exempt under the Section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The state is divided into districts, each with its own officers, who serve as liaisons between the state officers and chairmen, and the local clubs.

The program structure of GFWC-NC, corresponding with that of the GFWC, is administered through six Community Service Programs (CSPs), each with specific program areas. CSP Chairmen, one General and one Junior for each program, are elected to two-year terms at the GFWC-NC Fall Conference in uneven years. Chairmen appointed by the GFWC-NC President promote additional approved projects. GFWC-NC holds an annual Juniette Jamboree in the summer to offer state leadership training and to disseminate information on programs and special projects.

The Executive Committee, consisting of the officers elected to two-year terms at the annual convention in even years, supervises the programs and business affairs of the GFWC-NC. In addition, a five-member Board of Trustees (one member elected at each convention to a five-year term) has charge of all investments including the sale or transfer of stocks, bonds, and/or real estate made in the name of and belonging to the GFWC-NC.

GFWC-NC also sponsors an Arts Festival each March where clubwomen and student winners of district arts festivals compete for certificates and monetary awards (students only) in crafts, visual arts, literature, and performing arts. At the same event, competition is held for the Whitener Piano Scholarship for high school seniors, the Sallie Southall Cotten Academic Scholarship for high school seniors, the Greeson-Johnson Teaching Scholarship for college juniors, and an Artfest competition in the areas of arts and crafts for North Carolina's mentally and physically challenged citizens.

The NC Clubwoman magazine is published four times a year for North Carolina clubwomen (as part of her dues). The GFWC-NC Administration Book, published in even years, is available to clubwomen.