



GFWC OF NORTH CAROLINA

AN ORIENTATION TO FEDERATION

You and the Federation

We are excited about your interest in GFWC, one of the largest organizations of volunteer women in the world. The Federation provides every club woman an opportunity to develop their talents, abilities, and skills.

As a member of GFWC, GFWC-NC provides a framework for women across the state to work together through volunteerism to serve their local communities. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are a large part of the experience for GFWC's 60,000 members worldwide.

GFWC

After being denied entry to a banquet honoring Charles Dickens in 1868, Jane Cunningham Croly decided to create a club named Sorosis for women. The club would "manage its own affairs, represent as far as possible the active interests of women, and create a bond of friendship between them." This idea spread quickly and united women across the nation. On April 24, 1890, women from clubs in 18 states formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs, with a motto of 'Unity in Diversity' and a network for communication.

GFWC has nearly 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries. They 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 meeting at the GFWC Annual Convention and in the fall.

GFWC's Community Service Programs include Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness. There are two Special Programs; the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and the Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children. Program materials, suggestions for Resource Organizations and Partnerships with GFWC Affiliates are available for all program areas.

GFWC has six Advancement Plans to assist clubs with best practices for organizational success: Communications & Public Relations, Fundraising & Development, Leadership, Legislation & Public Policy, Membership, and the Women's History and Resource Center, which is located at GFWC Headquarters.

The Women's History and Resource Center was dedicated in 1984 during 1982-1984 GFWC International President Juanita Bryant's administration. Juanita Bryant was North Carolina's 1st GFWC International President. In addition to the archives and files, it is a repository for other material about women as volunteers and volunteer projects in America.

For more info: GFWC.org and gfwcnc.org.

General Federation of Women's Clubs

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

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GFWC-NC

The North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in May 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 with GFWC, its parent organization.

GFWC-NC History of Service 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

GFWC-NC is a non-profit 501C3 organization. Members of all ages and backgrounds work together to better the lives of others and make our cities and towns a better place to live. With the wide variety of programs offered, GFWC-NC is able to meet the needs of our local communities across the state. Through Federation, GFWC-NC constitutes a powerful organization united in its dedication to service.

GFWC-NC is comprised of General (all ages), Junior (45 years and under), General with a Junior Department, and Juniorette (middle or high school students) clubs.

GFWC of North Carolina is divided into districts, each with its own officers, who serve as liaisons between state officers and chairmen, and local clubs.

The program structure of GFWC-NC aligns with GFWC, and is administered through two Special Programs and five Community Service Programs (CSPs), each with specific project areas. CSP Chairmen are elected to two-year terms at the GFWC-NC Fall Conference in uneven years.

Committee Chairmen are appointed by the GFWC-NC President-elect for two-year terms to manage standing committees for Bylaws, Budget, Finance, Personnel, Advancement Plans, Personnel, and Special Programs and Projects.

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

GFWC-NC also sponsors an annual Arts Festival. Clubwomen and student winners of each district arts festivals compete for certificates and monetary awards (students only) in Crafts, Visual Arts, Literature, GFWC Writing, Photography, and GFWC Photography. It includes an Artfest Contest for mentally and physically challenged citizens.

GFWC-NC offers the Sallie Southall Cotten 4-year Academic Scholarship for high school seniors. The competition is held each spring.

GFWC-NC holds an annual Juniorette Jamboree to offer state leadership training and disseminate information.

The North Carolina Clubwoman magazine, published monthly, and the GFWC-NC Administration Book, updated annually, is available to all club women.