



GFWC OF NORTH CAROLINA

AN ORIENTATION TO FEDERATION

You and the Federation

GFWC is one of the oldest and largest volunteer organizations for women in the world. The Federation provides its members an opportunity to develop their talents, abilities, and skills.

As a member of GFWC, GFWC-NC offers 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 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 a conference in the fall.

Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness are GFWC's Community Service Programs. GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and the Juniors Special Program: Advocates for Children are our Special Programs. Program materials, suggestions for resource organizations, and agreements with GFWC Affiliate organizations like Unicef and Shot@Life are available for support in all program areas.

Our GFWC Advancement Plans assist clubs with best practices for success: Communications and Public Relations, Fundraising, Leadership, Legislation & Public Policy, which includes the GFWC Legislative Action Center, Membership, and the Women's History and Resource Center, located in Washington DC.

The Women's History and Resource Center was dedicated in 1984 during 1982-1984 GFWC International President Juanita Bryant's administration. Juanita Bryant was GFWC of 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 information:

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990
Phone 202-347-3168
FAX 835-0246

www.GFWC.org.

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

GFWC of North Carolina
Mailing Address: 7474 Creedmoor Road, #310, Raleigh, NC 27613

www.gfwcnc.org
Email: hq@gfwfnc.org



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..

GFWC-NC History of Service Since 1902

- Charter member of the NC Council for Women's Organizations
- Funds an annual four-year Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship
- Led women's crusade for seat belts
- 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 Clubs: General (all ages), Junior (18 - 45 years), General with a Junior Department, and Juniorette (middle or high school students) clubs.

The GFWC-NC Districts, each with its own officers, promote programs in the district, provide leadership opportunities, and serve as liaisons between state and local clubs.

Volunteer service programs align with GFWC and are administered through GFWC-NC Community Service Program Committees, each with specific goals and chairmen. CSP Chairmen are elected to two-year terms at the GFWC-NC Fall Conference in uneven years.

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

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 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 sponsors an annual Arts Festival, where Club women and student winners of each district Arts Festival competes for certificates and monetary awards (students only) in Crafts, Visual Arts, Literature, and 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.

The Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) is offered annually for club women to provide leadership training and personal skills development.

The North Carolina Clubwoman Magazine is a monthly publication available to all members.