

## **GFWC of North Carolina Legislation and Public Policy Top Ten Projects - 2022**

**GFWC-South Brunswick Islands: Legislation and Public Policy at General and District Meetings-** GFWC-NC Legislation and Public Policy Chairman is a member of GFWC-SBI. At monthly meetings, the steps to enroll in the GFWC Legislative Action Center were provided and members were encouraged to visit the site to remain updated and to act on all alerts. Prior to voting, the Chairman promoted the importance of voting in the upcoming election to make sure your voice was heard. The 2022 General Election Guide from the Brunswick County Board of Elections was provided to members. **53 MEMBERS 10 HOURS**

**GFWC of Holden Beach: Your Opinion Matters-** This club's October meeting featured GFWC and GFWC-NC Legislation and Public Policy Chairmen. The GFWC Chairman presented statistics and information on the recent midterm elections, including statistics on the number of women elected to positions across the country, states that had abortion issues on the ballot and bills that will be coming up for votes this session. The GFWC-NC Chairman presented her tri-fold display which highlighted all of the Legislation actions. Following an explanation of the purpose of the GFWC Legislative Action Center (LAC), all members were asked use their smartphones to enroll and check alerts. Once enrolled, all thirty-three members present took action on the four of the most recent alerts, each involving contact with three elected officials. Two NC Senators and one House of Representatives Member received 33 letters on each of the four different issues for a total of 363 contacts. It was emphasized to the members that these actions were all completed in less than 10 minutes because of the GFWC LAC. Following the meeting, every member received a response from one Senator on each issue for a total of 132 responses received on these actions. **33 MEMBERS 25 HOURS**

**Mobilize to Immunize: The Mary Stewart Woman's Club** members maintain their connection to the GFWC Legislative Action Center alert project to keep members up to date on public policy and legislative issues needing attention. All club members are signed up through the GFWC website to receive the alerts. The club sent an additional email in 2022 to promote engagement in support of the Mobilize to Immunize campaign. **14 MEMBERS 14 HOURS**

**Cary Woman's Club: Voter Reminder Postcards** - As this was an election year, club members, with the help of some members from District VI, sent individual hand-written nonpartisan postcards to occasional voters reminding them to vote in the election. Over 200 postcards were written, stamped, and mailed about two weeks before the November 2022 election. One member paid for the stamps. Club members hope their reminders helped to encourage more people to exercise their right and responsibility to vote in the election, which featured a large turnout. **16 MEMBERS 51 HOURS \$84 IN-KIND DONATIONS**

**Cape Fear Woman's Club:** The GFWC Cape Fear Woman's Club is a new club formed in 2022 with 12 new members. Three members have previous club experience. The remaining members are new to our Federation. At their first meeting (January 2022), the Mayor of Leland, North Carolina was our guest speaker. Brenda Bozeman shared with members the current state of the fastest growing community in North Carolina. She also talked about future development. She stayed for the entire meeting and was impressed with the organization and the club. **12 MEMBERS 6 HOURS**

**GFWC Triad Woman's Club: Flag Day Program** – During the June meeting, the FWC Triad Woman's Club held a program on Flag Day, which is celebrated on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Facts about Flag Day were presented and the importance of keeping our flag sacred. **5 MEMBERS 3 HOURS**

**GFWC of Holden Beach: Voter Information and Democracy Quiz-** In preparation for the mid-term election season, this club collected information from the Brunswick County Board of Elections and provided it to the members at the October meeting. Information included but was not limited to the 2022 General Election Guide, and an Early Voting Schedule. To encourage club members to vote, articles appeared in the October and November issues of the club's digital monthly newsletter and was reported at club meetings. As an incentive, the fun and tricky North Carolina Democracy Quiz was in the October newsletter and all members were encouraged to take it. The answers were distributed and reviewed at the November meeting and published in the newsletter. Members were engaged by the interesting topics covered in the Quiz. For example, did you know that Election Day is NOT always the first Tuesday in November? Or that you can track your mail-in ballot on-line to confirm that it has been received and counted? One more detail discovered while researching the project was in the event of a tie vote in the County, the winner is determined by the flip of a coin! **46 MEMBERS 5 HOURS**

**Charlotte Woman's Club: Refugee Support Services-** Currently, Charlotte is home to over 17,000 refugees and former refugees from all around the world. Most recently, Charlotte has been receiving the most refugees from countries such as Nepal, Burma (currently called Myanmar), African nations, and Syria. Reading and understanding mail, making telephone calls to solve issues or make an appointment, completing government forms, and understanding bills and payment options are all things can be overwhelming for someone new to America. Refugee Support Services teaches self-sufficiency skills to refugees, empowering them to thrive in American society. Refugee Support Services has benefitted from a \$5,000.00 donation from The Charlotte Woman's Club. The money has been used to support the Refugee Family Help Center, specifically the women's activities that include healthcare screenings, food distribution, and volunteer training. Their mentoring program facilitates connections between the refugees and local community members. In addition to helping the refugees, they also educate Americans about refugees and the refugee population. **30 MEMBERS 15 HOURS \$5,000 DONATED**

**Cary Woman's Club: General Meeting Speaker-** The speaker at the April General meeting was Phil Kirk, a public servant who has served in many roles in state government. Mr. Kirk told interesting stories about "*The Ten NC Governors I Have Known,*" with humorous insights, as well as observations from the inside of government, about Governors Sanford through Cooper, spanning the years 1961-2022. **26 MEMBERS 13 HOURS**

**Fuquay- Varina Woman's Club (FVWC): "For Now and Forever, Our Commitment to Community"-** Members of this club engaged in supporting the preservation of their town's History Museum. Numerous club yearbooks and other artifacts are stored and displayed at the Museum. Club members voted unanimously to advocate for the protection and expansion efforts of the museum in its downtown location if possible. Several members of FVWC have become affiliated with the Friends of the Museum through memberships, donations, volunteer hours, and marketing. Members invited town government officials to club meetings and events to promote their desire to partner with the Town in the preservation of the museum given expected future growth and revitalization efforts. Given the status of the museum may be in jeopardy, FVWC members are preparing a task force to devise and distribute a petition advocating awareness and support in utilizing and protecting their town's History Museum. **61 MEMBERS 300 HOURS \$469 IN-KIND DONATIONS**