



General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

As members of one of the oldest and largest women's volunteer organizations in the world, we are united in volunteer service. Over 60,000 members in every state and 20 countries work to improve the lives of others in their local communities. GFWC members annually donate an average of \$23 million on behalf of more than 195,000 projects, and volunteer more than six million hours!

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 of North Carolina 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.

GFWC is divided into 8 regions. GFWC of North Carolina is a member of the Southeastern Region (SER), which also includes Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Each region has officers and holds a meeting at the GFWC Annual Convention and a conference in the fall.

Beyond the framework for five Community Service Programs, GFWC has two Special Programs. The first is the Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and the second is the Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children. Also, in each administration the GFWC of North Carolina President selects a President's Special Project, which keeps the organization fresh and welcomes new opportunities and ideas for service. GFWC Affiliate organizations like Heifer, St. Jude, Shot@Life, and Hope for Justice 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 (WHRC) is located in Washington DC.

The Women's History and Resource Center was founded by GFWC International Past President Juanita Bryant (1982-1984) to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of GFWC and women volunteers. They document the contributions of GFWC club women from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections, and publications.

For more information:

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Dedicated To Community Improvement Through Volunteer Service Since 1902

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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 Juniette (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.

Standing Committee Chairmen are appointed 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 to supervise the business affairs of GFWC-NC. In addition, a five-member Board of Trustees 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 compete for certificates and monetary awards 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 Corporate Champions for Women and Children (CCWC) Awards Presentation is our biggest fundraiser. It was established in 2017, to recognize companies who distinguish themselves through community involvement in support of programs that benefit women and children. Funds raised support programs for Women and Children and the Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) which provides leadership and personal development training.