



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 is divided into 8 regions. GFWC of North Carolina is a member of the Southeastern Region (SER), which 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.

GFWC offers a framework of programs so members can work together toward the common goal of improving the lives of others, one community at a time. Fun, fellowship, and lasting friendships are an important part of the experience.

There are five Community Service Programs: Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness. The GWC Signature Program is Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and the Juniors' Special Program is Advocates for Children. 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 are available for support in all program areas.

GFWC Advancement Plans assist clubs with best practices for success: Communications & Public Relations, Fundraising & Development, 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 (WHRC), was founded by GFWC International Past President Juanita Bryant (1982-1984) to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of GFWC and women volunteers. It documents the contributions of GFWC club women from 1890 to the present through the GFWC archives, related special collections, and publications.

For more information:

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990
Phone 202-347-3168
www.gfwc.org

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@gfwcnc.org



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina

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 and is made up of General Clubs (all ages), Junior Clubs (18 - 45 years), General Clubs with a Junior Department, and Juniorette (middle or high school students) Clubs.

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. Junior Officers are elected to two-year terms, and supervise the Junior and Juniorette Clubs.

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

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.

Legislation, Public Policy, and Resolutions have been integral to the Federation. As a non-partisan and non-denominational organization, we have focused on issues involving women and children. As early as 1904, we campaigned for the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. We have advocated for seat belt laws, equal pay legislation, and recently, in North Carolina, to raise the lawful age to marry to sixteen. Together, our voices are powerful.

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.