



# GFWC MAINE PINE TREE NOTES



**March/April 2025**





# GFWC MAINE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Federation Friends,

I want to begin by saying thank you to all our members, family, and friends who were able to be in Portland on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Maine Mariners vs. Norfolk Admirals hockey game! What a great way to spend some time together in the middle of winter!! The hockey game didn't have the outcome we hoped for, but to each of us it was a winner of an evening! It was fun, as well as an honor, to be there to support this special event – “Women and Girls in Sports!” I am pleased that some of us were also in attendance at the special panel discussion in the afternoon to listen to the stories of these accomplished professional women in sports:

- **Melanie Crane:** A former Division 1 athlete, author, and co-founder of Elevate Maine, Melanie is passionate about mental health awareness for athletes and empowering the next generation of female competitors.
- **Jess Fadale:** As the owner of the Portland Yoga Collective and former Corporate Sales executive with the New England Patriots and Kraft Sports Group, Jess combines her passion for wellness with her extensive experience in the sports industry.
- **Reagan Carey:** Reagan has been a game-changer in promoting women's hockey and elevating the visibility of women in sports, she was an instrumental driver in unifying the world of professional women's ice hockey that led to the launch of the PWHL
- **Clara Brown:** A decorated Paralympic medalist, Clara exemplifies resilience and determination, inspiring others through her athletic achievements and advocacy for inclusivity in sports.

And the icing on the cake is a portion of each of the tickets sold under our special GFWC Maine link is being donated by the Mariner's to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. All the way around, it was a Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope kind of day.

The following Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, was a very productive day at our Winter Executive Committee Meeting. What a joy it is to work side by side with this strong group of women leaders! President-elect Nancy Ames had arranged for us to meet at the Canaan Public Library. It was wonderful to have this time to work together as we spent the full day going over the business of our incredible organization.



Spring is around the corner – and that will be a welcome change! Some warmer temperatures will be most appreciated! As I sit here putting down my thoughts for this newsletter – I have to ask myself, how did we get here so quickly!?! Time flies, as the saying goes!

With that being said, I am very excited about how plans are coming together of the 2025 GFWC Maine Spring Convention. The Call to the Convention is included with this edition of Pine Tree Notes and I certainly hope you have already marked your calendar to be with us. We will have 2 days to celebrate accomplishments of the past year. We will hear great reports from our state chairmen, yes, some awards will be given, we will learn from each other – it will be a very engaging, energizing, encouraging, empowering event! Come join the fun! May 14-15, 2025.

In addition to spending time with friends and time to make new friends, you will also have an opportunity to meet GFWC 2nd Vice President Mary Beth Williams! She will be traveling here from Colorado and I look forward to the inspiration she will bring to us. I am also looking forward to our evening entertainment after our first day together – acoustic guitarist and singer.

Before closing, I want to share it has been my pleasure to visit many of our clubs this past year, and I'm looking forward to having a chance to visit some of the other clubs in the coming months and into next year. So please reach out! It truly is one of the best parts of serving as state president.

Oh wait, one more thing – Atlanta, here I come! I have reserved a room, booked my flight and registered for the June 7-9, 2025 GFWC Annual Convention – Spinning Vision Into Reality! I am looking forward to it. Thank you all, for this awesome opportunity!

With love to my federation friends,  
Suzanne Raymond, President





# GF WC MAINE

## VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Happy March GFWC Maine! Spring is on the way, arriving on March 20 - hopefully coming in like a lion, but going out like a lamb.

The **May 1 postmark deadline** is fast approaching to submit your club's entry for The Carolyn Lombardi Award. This award covers your club's activity from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. You will find the entry form on pages 82-83 of the current GFWC Maine Directory. This award is presented at the GFWC Maine Spring Convention annually, with the first place club receiving \$50 and a first-place certificate. The club receiving second place will receive \$25 and a second-place certificate. All clubs are encouraged to take a few minutes to complete the entry form and submit to me at: **Gloria Aurelio, 20 Rob Clark Street, Winterport, ME 04496**, post-marked no later than May 1, 2025. I look forward to announcing the results at our Spring Convention in Freeport this May!

This Vice President has been busy receiving all of the excellent statistical reporting from 15 of our 16 GFWC Maine Clubs! The timeliness and organization of the reports from many clubs indicate that an efficient system for tracking projects and volunteer hours is in place. I would encourage any club who finds yearly reporting challenging, to consider a monthly tracking system for projects, hours, and donations. Please reach out to me, and I can put you in touch with one of the experts!

Your Vice President was in awe at the many impressive and creative projects held to support our local communities this past year, reflecting the dedication, work, and generosity of our club members. And the dollars raised and in-kind donations made locally and to our GFWC Affiliate Organizations - all I can say is WOW! Our GFWC Maine Program Chairmen received their respective packets from me in early February; I eagerly look forward to their report presentations and awards at Spring Convention. Bravo GFWC Maine for an amazing year of growth and community service!

Now more than ever we realize and appreciate that being part of a volunteer organization can help us stay physically healthy, reduce stress, and increase positive feelings while strengthening our ties to our communities. We in GFWC Maine also continue to meet new members to our Federation who share our interests and passions. How fortunate we are!

Looking forward to our upcoming District Meetings and Spring Convention, reconnecting with Federation sisters old and new!

Gloria Aurelio, GFWC Maine Vice President



## GFWC ME State President's Project

State President's Project – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:

This is some information from the GFWC Club Manual in the Digital Library about St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:

### SUBMITTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Please visit [www.stjude.org/gfwc](http://www.stjude.org/gfwc) and click on the donate button on the left. This will automatically be credited to GFWC. You can donate via credit card, check, PayPal, or Amazon Pay. You can also make your gift an honorarium or memorial.

>>>> One suggested way to help that might be a good club project:

### Waiting Room Fun Bags

Fill a sealed, zippered plastic bag with fun things a child or teen can do as they wait to visit the doctor. Make bags age-specific but generic enough for a boy or a girl. Include things such as: crayons, markers, colored pencils, paper, coloring books, and stickers. Items may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attention Vilma Carnahan and Volunteer Services, 595 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38105

Since the previous newsletter donations were received by the state treasurer from the following clubs: GFWC Newport Woman's Club, GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club, GFWC MIOSAC Club, GFWC ARTS Club. Total collected to date is \$1478.50 through the state treasury, but clubs reported other amounts by individual members to make a grand total to date of \$2665.00 plus in-kind donations of \$85.00.

[NOTE: If individuals use the above link to make donations, these should be reported to your club so they can be counted in the state reporting. It's too late for this year, but I will remind you again in the fall – repetition always helps me remember things!]

Thank you all for your generosity and support of this worthy project.

Libby Wiers, State President's Project Chairman

# GFWC ME Signature Program

## *Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention*

Greetings, GFWC Maine Clubwomen!

I hope that your 2025 is off to a good start and you aren't growing weary of this crazy winter yet! This is a tough time of year, with spring around the corner we all seem to be waiting for those first signs of buds on the trees and the return of birds.

I was humbled by the 2024 reporting by clubs of their activities, projects and support of the GFWC Signature Program. These topics are near and dear to my heart, and I am proud of the work that has been done in our state. Thank you!

With spring comes some dates of interest that the GFWC Signature Program supports. March 5-11 is "No More" week. Many of you have not heard about this, but it is an international campaign aimed at raising awareness and taking action against domestic and sexual violence. This is a week to flood social media with hashtags such as #NoMoreWeek to spread the word. Donate, fundraise, participate in the No More Week 5K, host events, etc. There's plenty to do! Please go to [www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org) to learn more.

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (civilian and military). GFWC Maine supported children going into foster care last fall by creating backpacks filled with necessities, and this is exactly the type of project that is meaningful to this program. Children that have faced abuse and neglect and have been removed from their homes are so traumatized, anything that can be done to ease the burden is a miracle. Other ways to support children include a teddy bear drive (donating the teddys to a child advocacy center where the teddys are given to children that are being interviewed and examined after an incident of abuse), donating used bags and suitcases to Child Protective Services (to reduce the need for children to use garbage bags for their belongings) and support child abuse laws and legislation. GFWC Maine has been an advocate for children in crisis and I am sure that 2025 will be no different.

As always, I am available to speak to clubs about Military Sexual Assault and my experience with being a survivor. If clubs have a need for speakers during the 2025 – 2026 club year, please let me know.

I wish you all a happy and healthy spring and summer, and will be back in the fall with more tidbits on how you can support the GFWC Signature Program!

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC ME Signature Program Chairman

# GFWC ME

## Education & Libraries

Greetings GFWC Maine members,

As we know, investing countless hours and then making sure children have the best education from birth through adulthood pays off more than ten fold for a child's future and us as a society.

\*A project your club may want to do is: contact the principal of a local school to ask the question How can our GFWC Maine club help at this time?

\*Join with another local organization to put story books near benches at your community park. Protect them with plastic storage bags or put them into plastic bins with a cover. Label what is inside on the lid and of course our GFWC logo. Check on their use and rotate new books.

\*I will look forward to celebrating with your clubs all the numerous ways GFWC Maine has enriched our communities at the GFWC Maine Spring Convention in May 2025.

**\*April is the month we celebrate, The Week of the Child.**

Deb Burnham, GFWC Maine Education and Library Chairman 2024-2026





## **GFWC ME**

### **Legislative Action**

### **/ Public Policy**

Legislation and Public Policy -

GFWC Maine increased its membership by 75% in the GFWC Legislative Action Committee. Although it is an increase to celebrate, we still have a long way to go. We initially had only 20 members signed up, and we increased membership to 35 - a 75% increase, but we still have many members in Maine who need to enroll. The GFWC Legislative Action Committee is the easiest way to advocate for important legislation. When you are a member, you periodically receive emails from GFWC asking you to lend your support to an important piece of legislation. You can do so by simply clicking on a button, and just like that your voice is added to other women's voices in support of the legislation.

These are some of the pieces of legislation where GFWC members have given their support to make something happen.

**VAWA Appropriations:** The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was reauthorized in March 2022, and the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill provided historically high funding levels for programs to serve survivors and strengthen prevention programs. GFWC urged Congress to provide increased federal funding for FY 2024 and FY 2025. Status: Congress increased FY 2024 funding for a few of the VAWA programs and has approved a FY 2025 Continuing Resolution (CR) until March 14, 2025, which provides level funding for all programs and services.

**Rape Kit Backlog:** The Debbie Smith Act reauthorizes funding to law enforcement to analyze untested rape kits. DNA analysis is one of the most important methods to investigate crimes and improve the capacity of state and local prosecutors to bring these cases to court. Status: Congress enacted H.R. 1105, Public Law 118-72.

GFWC supported increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to enhance state and local programs that help transform communities into beautiful and resilient places through strategies that incorporate arts and culture. Status: Congress passed a FY 2025 Continuing Resolution through March 14, 2025, providing level funding.

**Women's Suffrage Monument:** GFWC joined the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation urging Congress to authorize placement of the first and only monument dedicated to American's women history on the National Mall. Status: Congress enacted H.R. 1318, P.L. 118-226.



These are just a few of the bills where our voices made a difference! You can add your voice to support these important issues by simply signing up for the Legislative Action Committee. Go to this webpage to sign up - <https://www.gfwc.org/get-involved/>

If you need help, please contact me at [gpleveillee@gmail.com](mailto:gpleveillee@gmail.com) or [gpleveillee@roadrunner.com](mailto:gpleveillee@roadrunner.com) A 75% increase is nice, but 75% participation would be even better!

Gloria Leveillee, GFWC Maine Chairman



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## GFWC ME Environment

Despite critics, such as those in TIME magazine, referring to the traditional women's clubs as "endangered species", GFWC sustained its conservation efforts through well-defined programs of work throughout the 1970's with simple goals-to preserve, educate, and promote active involvement - they continued to push for awareness through the media and various environmental improvement projects on the local and national levels.

The foresight of past clubwomen laid the foundation for our strong commitment to service in the natural world. They recognized the importance of conservation even before the world could recognize endangered species, deadly smog, and rising tides. Our women were ahead of their time, launching the ever-present task of preserving our nation's homeland. (Taken from GFWC History and Resource Center)

As I have been privileged to read the Environment reports that have come to me, I can only say....GFWC Maine Clubwomen increase their efforts to expand into new areas of conservation. **Well done GFWC Maine!**

Gerry Richardson, GFWC ME Environment Chairman



# GFWC ME Membership

*GFWC Maine Membership Springtime "Quackers" Update*

*Katherine White, GFWC Maine Chairman*

## ***Welcome "Spring" to GFWC Maine Membership!!***

This Chairman wishes to begin with an apology to the **GFWC Newport Woman's Club** for not including their membership increase of four (4) new members in the last article of the PTN. I inadvertently left the GFWC Newport Woman's Club out of the Clubs recognized for gaining new members during October, November and December. Here's to a very special "Quack-u-lations" for your increase!! With the GFWC Newport Woman's Club addition, this Chairman received notice from Eight (8) not seven (7) that gained members, making an increase of 19 new members in the 3 months. Way to go GFWC Maine!!

This Chairman is looking forward to the spring convention and acknowledge your work that has been accomplished in membership during this first year. You won't want to miss the well organized and fun convention President Suzanne has planned.

Let's continue to work on Diverse and Inclusive Programming as you recruit new members to join your Club in January, February and March. Consider all your members' needs when organizing club events and activities, ensuring club programs are accessible and open to all of your membership. It's important all members are included. When working and playing together it strengthens the core of our organization. Membership is Me and You in ME!

Remember March 30th is the deadline to send me your clubs totals, with the new members names and emails, that joined in January, February, and March. Email the information to [dawklw@gmail.com](mailto:dawklw@gmail.com). Each member counts and we want to hear from all our clubs no later than **March 30th**.



*"Be so happy that when other people look at you, they become happy too". (Unknown)*

*Being a GFWC Maine Member Brings Happiness!*

# **GFWC ME**

## **Civic Engagement & Outreach**

GFWC Maine Civic Engagement & Outreach

Ah, the longer days!! Enjoying them, I sure am!

- In considering what your club can do for a Civic Engagement Project I would invite you to check out the GFWC Resource [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org) and check out specific scams against seniors. Many topics of interest there that would be of interest to your members.
- Investigate [www.legion.org/flag/folding](http://www.legion.org/flag/folding) and learn all kinds of thing about the American Flag, the correct way to display, how to retire an old flag, how to correctly fold a flag, much history on the flag that perhaps we didn't learn or needs refreshing.
- April is "Distracted Driver Awareness" Month. Go to [www.ncs.org](http://www.ncs.org) and look into the information the National Safety Council has on this topic. It would make a timely program.
- And let us NOT forget our own Maine Youth Leadership, a program that is focused on enhancing leadership skills, volunteerism and character for high school sophomores across Maine. It is a 4 day seminar held annually. Check it out at: [www.maine-youthleadership.org](http://www.maine-youthleadership.org) Consider supplying a full or part scholarship to this program and invite the student who goes to come back to your club and tell about their experience.

These are but a few of the GFWC Resources specific to the Civic Engagement program, check them out!

Think Spring and Spring Convention!! Hope to see you there!!

Sally Manchester, GFWC Maine Civic Engagement and Outreach Program Chairman





## GFWC ME Health & Wellness

Dear GFWC Maine Friends,

Do you know that good eye health depends on Vitamin A? Eating orange carrots is nutritionally beneficial as they contain beta-carotene which our bodies convert into Vitamin A! All carrots have several nutritional health benefits as they contain fiber, Vitamin K1, potassium, antioxidants, and are low in calories. Eating carrots helps reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, and lowers cholesterol. Carrots have been labeled the perfect health food. **Mom was right, eat your carrots!**

Please consult your National Health Observances list to be reminded what Health issue to emphasize in your clubs each month.

I hope to “see” you at Spring Convention.



Lovedy Alexander, GFWC ME Health and Wellness Chairman

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On March 1st it was my privilege to visit the Outlook Club in Hartland to present 3 of their members with ESO awards that they had earned. Congratulations to Jennifer Mabee, Libby Wiers and Kathleen Clark. I am pleased to say I also received 3 new members in the ESO program while there. Speaking of the ESO program, I want to let our ESO members know the national chairman has said she no longer wants the number of hours you have read. So in December when you are reporting to your club president just report the number of books you read for the year. Hope you save time during the summer for reading. Best regards Marjorie H. Coburn Black  
Maine ESO Chairman

## GFWC ME Epsilon Sigma Omicron



Marjorie H. Coburn Black  
GFWC ME ESO Chairman



## GFWC MAINE HIGH SCHOOL ELDER ABUSE ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP



*Katherine White, Chairman*

*Maine High School Seniors Helping Seniors (Elders) through Education*

*An Investment in Knowledge Pays the Best Interest.*

GFWC Maine's Elder Abuse Scholarship is the investment, we as an organization are supporting to educate our youth on the importance of learning about elder abuse in our state. With each generous donation your Club makes strengthens the support for continuing this worthy scholarship. Thank you is such a small way to let you know the impact your generosity has on our elders safety and how greatly appreciated it is to many including our elders and high school seniors. Maine club women are making it happen!!

Your Chair has heard from several clubs and or members sharing they have sent a donation to our state treasurer, Jane Briggs, supporting the essay scholarship. That brings a smile to this face with each donation received. One of my favorite past times is **Smiling** and nothing brings a smile faster than a donation in support of the elder abuse essay scholarship! Give me a reason to **smile**; send your donation to our state treasurer, Jane Briggs, 106 Libby Hill Rd, Newport ME 04953. PLEASE on the **memo line add Elder Abuse Scholarship** and email me that you have made a donation with the amount for my records. **"A Smile"** is contagious so bring them on with your donations! Let's feel the joy that a smile can bring to our seniors both young and old. We will once again be awarding the \$1000 scholarship on or around June 15th 2025 for the 9th year!! Wow!!! The applications and essays have been coming in already and the selection of the winning essay from the winner in each of the 16 counties will be completed prior to June 15th, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. More details will be forthcoming when finalized.

Three Tips supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15th by your Club

- Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contest at your local elementary or middle school. It will amaze you how our youth view this issue. Adopt a classroom or grade level.
- Organize a "Letter to the Editor" to raise awareness on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- Make a donation to GFWC Maine Statewide High School Elder Abuse Essay Scholarship.

17 Words that will never fail you? Prepare, Care, Believe, Forgive, Change, Risk, Listen, Choose, Relax, Pray, Persist, Smile, Focus, Act, Trust, Accept, and Wait. (unknown)

**NEVER EVER IS THERE AN EXCUSE FOR ELDER ABUSE**



## **GFWC ME Jennie Award**

The Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. The founder of GFWC, Jane Cunningham Croly wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June." Judging criteria encompasses commitment to family, commitment to GFWC and Commitment to community. This award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage, and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their club, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. The nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. I am asking each club to scrutinize their members and see if there is a clubwoman that could be considered a candidate for the Jennie Award. Nominations (1 per club) should be submitted to our State President by June 1, 2025.

Please contact me if you do have a clubwoman for this award. I will send you the listing of what is required to submit her name. GFWC Maine has some amazing clubwomen and I look forward to hearing from you.

Marjorie Pfeiffer, GFWC ME Jennie Award Chairman.



## GFWC Lubec Women's Club

The temperature was dropping but spirits were rising on Saturday, February 15 as the members of the Lubec Women's club delivered sweet treat bags to seniors in our area. With warm hearts and cold feet this gesture easily sparked smiles as the ladies travelled door to door with a bit so sunshine on a cold day.

Over 60 bags (packed by club president Julia Brady) contained donations of candy from LWC, soap from Bill Clark at West Quoddy Station, and beautifully decorated tags made by grade 3&4 students from Lubec Elementary School. Daphne Perry from The Clutter Shop provided heart ribbon and Claire Egan donated the bags. This monthly outreach has proved very popular and many partners have joined the LWC to support this community initiative. Special thanks to members who braved the cold to distribute the bags. Maine can be very isolating for seniors and it is important to check on your neighbours.

The first meeting of 2025 will be held on March 4th at 1pm at the Lubec Christian Temple Church and it will be a busy and lively group on hand to discuss our projects and plans for the upcoming year before enjoying a presentation by the Corey sisters who will share stories of life growing up in Lubec. We are all looking forward to sharing our own memories which will add even more fun to this cheerful meeting.

Submitted by Cindy Ferriere, GFWC Lubec Woman's Club

*Geri and Debbi*



*Juanita, Mary, Cathy, Nancy, Kay, Debbi and Geri*



## **GFWC Newport Women's Club**

The GFWC Newport Woman's Club members came together at the Newport Cultural Center with sewing machines and scissors ready to work. The GFWC International Day Of Service project found members creating blankets and pillows for their "Norma's Dolls" project. The project was started by a member several years ago and has continued to grow. Baby dolls are collected from several sources such as yard sales etc. All are laundered and dried. The hair is combed and fashioned. Then they are dressed and ready to be placed in one of the many wooden cradles created by a gentleman who is very generous with his time and talent. The blankets and pillows are the final touch and Norma's Dolls are ready for next year's giving season. Many hands are involved in this project....we anticipate many smiles on little faces.

On Valentine's Day we gathered once again at the Cultural Center and entertained the area Senior Citizens. Games were played, prizes won, many sweets were enjoyed ,but the fellowship enjoyed by all was the ultimate prize of the day.

We have experienced growth in this year and plan to continue this trend in the months ahead. The enthusiasm of our new members reminds us why WE joined this group.

Gerry Richardson, Secretary, GFWC Newport Woman's Club

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## **GFWC Outlook Club**

Things have been going well in Hartland during the start of the new year. We added yet another member, and one of our new members from last fall agreed to take over as Secretary (since I was President AND Secretary), so this is wonderful progress for our club. Certificates were presented to member Kathleen Clark for most volunteer hours AND most books read in 2024. Some long overdue anniversary pins were also presented: Jennifer Mabee, 5 years; Wynona Rusgaitis, 10 years; Kathleen Clark, 40 years; Libby Wiers, 45 years; and Helene Libby, 65 years! Incredible! Celebrating our members and their accomplishments is vital to morale. An appreciated member is a long-lasting member!

The GFWC Outlook Club was presented a certificate signed by GFWC International President Suellen Brazil, for our 120 th Anniversary! We are so proud to be one of the oldest womens clubs in the state, and I hope to bring this club into the future with this great new momentum that we have started to gain.

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC Outlook Club President



## **GFWC MIOSAC Club**

Greetings to all. Hope you are having a good winter and staying well. Heard some of you attended the Mariners Game. I wanted to go but it didn't work out. President Suzanne was able to attend!! We only met once in January.

We had a wonderful, rousing Pound Party with our own GFWC President Suzanne saying "going, going, GONE!" We raised \$280.00!!

Our February meeting was a great time. Kathy Ryder, program chairman had a night of activity planned to get up and move. She spent a lot of time getting it ready as well as money for our work. Much laughter as we tried and failed and some tried and succeeded.

One member made valentines for the nursing home. A day was planned to make more valentines but it didn't work out.

Our total for snacks for children for Christmas was 580 bags that contained cereals, pudding and fruit cups, crackers, etc. Food Cupboard was very grateful.

The "Money jar" gets passed around every meeting and contents go to Suzanne's project, St. Judes Childrens Research Hospital.

The March meeting will be "A Trip to Africa!" Member Roxy McGlaulin attended a wedding there and is presenting her trip March 18. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as I will be recovering from knee surgery.(finally)

It is with great regret and sadness that I announce the resignation of our President Wendy Hutchins. She has relocated to Southern Maine. She will be sadly missed. Vice President Laurie Ducat has taken over and will do a great job. Unfortunately, Laurie will not be able to attend convention. Miosac will have a small attendance. but we will be large in thought!!

We will be losing another member as she will be moving to Southern Maine to be near her children after the loss of her husband earlier this year. We are very sorry to see her go too! Two scholarships were awarded.

The Art Show has a slow start but hopefully will happen soon or at least we will get some art work to take to convention. Further programs have not been announced so no word on those.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Convention!!

Minnie McCormick, GFWC MIOSAC Club

*Laurie Ducat & Wendy Hutchins*



*Suzanne Raymond, Wendy Hutchins, Laurie Ducat, Anne Cress, Vicki Moschella and Minnie McCormick at Fall Convention*



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## **GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club**

The Westbrook Woman's Club has been enjoying many programs at our meetings. In January, we had "an unsung hero" presentation. The member who was honored is Rosemary Holleman. She does a lot for our club and helps different members that need help. We had our Christmas gathering at Bruno's Restaurant and the members brought gifts for children at Spring Harbor.

Vivian Newton, GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club

## GFWC Winterport Women's Club

After an extremely active Fall and holiday season our club enjoyed a bit of respite during the months of January and February. Although we do not hold membership meetings during these months our board meets regularly once a month to keep breast of on-going projects and planning for the future. In January four of us were interviewed at the town library by Jodi Hersey of TV 7. She is responsible for reporting uplifting news during a time when much of the news is anything but that. In her travels through town she had noticed the large town sign & planter indicating the name of our club and was curious to learn more. Jodi did a professional job interviewing and editing the footage she obtained. We were thrilled with the results that aired on local TV 7 on January 21st.

On February 7 an adventurous group of our members, family, and friends converged at the Cross Arena in Portland for a Mariners Hockey game. GFWC members were invited to the game as part of a celebration of Maine women in athletics and Winterport was well represented. Thank you Suzanne for facilitating this fun activity!

We are looking forward to our next membership meeting on March 12 when we will be meeting at a new business in town: The Glass Feather, owned and operated by Heather Burgess. After our business meeting Heather will be giving a talk on her stained glass business and will be providing future opportunities for our members to participate in this art form.

Although all our perennial beds are currently covered in two feet of snow we are looking forward to our annual Paint Sale fundraiser coming up May 17/18. We invite all club women in Maine to come check out our many field grown perennials @ 185 Stream Rd. Winterport. Until the snow melts we will need to get our gardening fix by perusing plant and seed catalogues!

Ellen Van Vranken, President: GFWC Winterport Woman's Club

*GFWC ME @ Maine Mariners game*



## **21 Club of Kezar Falls**

21 Club has been on winter break during January and the first part of February. In February, we gathered together to enjoy each others company and got back to business. Club celebrated a new member and welcomed a guest. We "showered" Ronald McDonald House in Portland. This continues a tradition of financial and material support, spanning back to 1993, when Ronald McDonald House, Portland was founded. If you go to the House, you might even find our paver!

President Tanya Wilson reported out on the annual report filed with GFWC. She shared guidelines for reporting, and disseminated a form for members to use when keeping track of their hours.

The CIP Committee met and generated project ideas. These were then presented to club members for feedback. The committee hopes to have a firm project after the next meeting in March and will start planning soon.

Club looks forward to an active and productive spring. We will be holding our art contest and display at the public library in March, stuffing Books for Babies bags, finding out about the Francis Small Heritage Trust, and learning more about recycling in Maine.

Here's to warmer weather, and yellow tulips. See you at Spring Convention!

Jean Stanley, GFWC 21 Club of Kezar Falls

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## **GFWC Research Club of Limerick**

Limerick Research Club is coming out of hibernation. We have a busy spring planned. Will catch everyone up in the fall. Happy Spring.

Cindy Mullis, President: GFWC Limerick Research Club



## GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club

The GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club made a very enjoyable visit to the new Skowhegan Fire and Police Stations in October. We learned some of the newest ways of handling emergency situations and the reasons the prior buildings had become too small to handle the needs of our community. We were pleased to hold our meeting in one of their new meeting rooms.

GFWC SWC members met each week during the fall at Billie Sherman's "shop" to create crafts and learn new crafting skills. Several members also made items at home. These crafts were sold as a fundraiser at the Garden Club Federation of Maine's Fall Conference in Sydney in November.

The Day of Caring project was held on September 28th. The Skowhegan Woman's Club, collected foods and toiletry items to present to the Food Pantry in Skowhegan.

This year the GFWC SWC wanted to do projects to help local schools and the homeless shelters. A decision was made to make apple pies, to sell in November, to fund this. Several members got together and spent two enjoyable days cutting, rolling, baking, talking, and laughing. The profit made was more than enough to take care of the 2 projects.

At the end of November, the Skowhegan Woman's Club decorated a tree at the Redington Home in Skowhegan, using the theme "wreaths". Many kinds of miniature wreaths were created, ex. a "duck in a pond" wreath or an "Easter Rabbit and basket" wreath. Billy Sherman created hints for the residents to use to hunt for the various wreaths. It was not only a lovely tree, but one that engaged the residents.

On Sat., Dec. 7, club members had a lot of fun decorating Christmas cookies with over 250 children at a downtown Skowhegan business. This was part of the "Skow-hoo-ville" holiday festival.

In January, we featured our crockpot cooks, Vi Ferland and Betty Osgood. They shared the fun "times" taking a crockpot class. We enjoyed a chicken lunch they prepared for us... and they shared their recipes.

Best wishes to all of for good health for the remainder of winter.

We look forward to seeing you at convention.  
June Nickerson-Hovey, Leadership Team Member





## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **GFWC ME Northern District Spring Meeting**

Saturday, April 12, 2025

10:00am – 3:00pm

Newport Cultural Center

154 Maine Street, Newport, ME

### **GFWC ME Southern District Spring Meeting**

Saturday, April 19, 2025

10:00am - 2:00pm

Westbrook Community Center

426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, ME

### **GFWC ME Spring Convention**

Wednesday, May 14 & Thursday, May 15, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn - Freeport, ME

**Call to Convention included here**

### **GFWC International Convention**

Friday, June 6 - Monday, June 9, 2025

Omni Atlanta Hotel - Atlanta, GA





## GFWC

<b>President</b>	<b>Suellen Brazil</b> <b>SBrazil@gfwc.org</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Wendy Carriker</b> <b>WCarriker@gfwc.org</b>
<b>First Vice</b>	<b>Jolie R. Frankfurth</b> <b>JFrankfurth@gfwc.org</b>
<b>Second Vice</b>	<b>Mary Beth Williams</b> <b>MBWilliams@gfwc.org</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Susan Gettys</b> <b>SGettys@gfwc.org</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Juliet Casper</b> <b>JCasper@gfwc.org</b>
<b>Director/Junior Clubs</b>	<b>Shannon Bailey</b> <b>SBailey@gfwc.org</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Carol Habgood</b> <b>CHabgood@gfwc.org</b>



## GFWC MAINE

<b>President</b>	<b>Suzanne Raymond</b> <b>straymond72@gmail.com</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Nancy Ames</b> <b>Nancyames76@gmail.com</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Gloria Aurelio</b> <b>aurelioboys@gmail.com</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Anne Newman</b> <b>annenewman337@gmail.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jane Briggs</b> <b>briggs106@roadrunner.com</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Jen Mabee</b> <b>jrvsm13@gmail.com</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Gloria Leveillee</b> <b>gpleveillee@gmail.com</b>



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

*Official Call* to GFWC Maine Spring Convention  
May 14-15, 2025 – Hilton Garden Inn – Freeport

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**“Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope”**

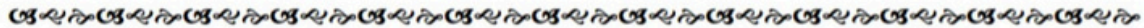
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b>	3:00 PM	GFWC Maine Executive Committee Meeting	Monhegan
	6:30 PM	Dinner (location TBD)	
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	8:30 AM	Set up Marketplace (to open at 9 AM)	Ballroom
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Registration <i>Coffee and tea available during Registration only</i> <i>-Sponsored by GFWC Maine Executive Committee-</i>	Foyer
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Opening Session/Business –	Ballroom
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Reports – Awards - Speakers</b> Maine Youth Leadership Membership WHRC Environment Delegates Fund Endowment Fund Fundraising` Arts and Culture Photography / Poetry / Short Story Legislation/Public Policy	
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>MARKETPLACE</b>	
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>“Plant the Seeds of Kindness” Luncheon</b> Honoring our District and Club Presidents	
	<b>1:15 PM</b>	<b>Business Session Reconvenes</b> Leadership LEADS Candidate 2025 GFWC Signature Program Health and Wellness Speaker: Partners For World Health President’s Project: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Communications/Public Relations Fundraising PTN & Directory Updates	
	<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>MARKETPLACE</b> (will close for the day, by 4:15 if not sooner)	
	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Past State President’s Club Meeting	



**5:30 PM** Social/Cocktail Hour/ 6:15 PM Processional

**6:30 PM** **“Shine Your Light” Banquet**  
Honoring our Past State Presidents and  
GFWC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mary Beth Williams

Entertainment: Andrew Favreau – Singer/Acoustic Guitar



<i>Thursday, May 15</i>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Registration Marketplace	Foyer Ballroom
	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Business Session Reconvenes</b>  Call to Order Memorial Service  <b>Reports – Awards - Speakers</b> Civic Engagement & Outreach Club Scrapbook Awards Speaker: Mary Beth Williams GFWC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President 10 Minute Break Jennie Award Update Membership Awards Carolyn Lombardi Award District President Reports	Ballroom
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>MARKETPLACE</b>	
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>“Bloom Where You’re Planted” Luncheon</b> Honoring our Program and Committee Chairmen	
	<b>1:15 PM</b>	<b>Business Session Reconvenes</b>  Officer Reports Education and Libraries Educational Loan Fund/Maude MacKenzie Scholarship Epsilon Sigma Omicron Maine Elder Abuse Scholarship Invitation to NER 2025 Final Report of Registration Raffle Drawings Announcements “Let There Be Peace On Earth”	
	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	



**GFWC Maine  
Spring Convention – May 14 & 15, 2025**

**Guest Room Special Group Rate  
\$150.00 (plus tax) per night for 1 King Bed or 2 Queen Beds**

**Hilton Garden Inn Freeport**  
5 Park St, Freeport, ME 04032  
207-865-1433

**Reservations must be received by  
April 13, 2025 for the guaranteed room rate**

*Early reservations are encouraged*  
Requests made after this date will be subject to room availability.

**To register by phone:** To receive the special group block rate, you must mention "General Federation of Women's Club" or "Group Code 90 E" when making your reservation. Phone number: 207-865-1433

**To register online:** Use the direct link: [General Federation of Women's Club](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=PWMFDGI&arrivalDate=2025-05-13&departureDate=2025-05-15&groupCode=90E&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink)

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=PWMFDGI&arrivalDate=2025-05-13&departureDate=2025-05-15&groupCode=90E&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

Hotel facility includes: FREE high speed wireless internet, fitness center, indoor pool, free parking

**Check-in time 3:00 pm - Check-out time 11:00 am**

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**SPRING CONVENTION MARKETPLACE REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL State Committees and Clubs MUST register for a Marketplace Table**

- Club's must fill out this form and mail it to Suzanne Raymond.
- GFWC Maine Committees can register by email...[straymond72@gmail.com](mailto:straymond72@gmail.com)
- A Club must register/pay for its half table even if it is sharing with a committee fundraiser
- Table space for state chairmen is FREE but you still must register to save your space.
- Deadline to register for a table – **must be received by April 28.**

Club fee for half table is \$5.00

Club fee for full size table is \$10.00

Tables are 6 ft clothed, skirted & with chair

Make check payable to **GFWC Maine.**

Mail to: Suzanne Raymond  
PO Box 26  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426



Marketplace items for sale (or for raffle) must NOT include any homemade food items. This includes all items such as muffins, pies, breads, fudge, cookies, bars, etc. This does NOT include commercial items that are intended for group fundraising.

**GFWC Maine Spring Convention- May 14-15, 2025 – Hilton Garden Inn - Freeport**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for nametag: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_  
GFWC Maine Position: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee - [ ] Wednesday \$20.00 [ ] Thursday \$20.00 [ ] Both days \$30.00**

- Checks payable to **GFWC Maine** for registration and meal fee.
- Please complete a **separate registration form** for each attendee.
- Mail registration form and check to Anne Cress, PO Box 623, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426  
Phone 207- 717 -7576 | Email jkhranch09@gmail.com
- **A late fee of \$5.00** will be added for registrations postmarked after April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Please note:** No refunds after May 2nd.

**Wednesday Lunch:** (All meals include regular and decaf coffee and hot tea) [tax and service fee incl]  
The Sandwich Board

- Artisan Garden Green Salad
- Sandwich - choice of Turkey Breast / Applewood Smoked Ham / Vegetable Wrap
- Assorted Kettle Chips
- Dessert - Chocolate Chip & White Chip Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookies \$39.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday Served Dinner:** (Select one entrée)

Each entrée includes Chefs selection of starch and market fresh vegetable, fresh baked rolls and whipped butter, Caesar salad, and Boston cream pie

- ❖ Roasted Turkey Breast, *Cranberry Pecan Dressing, Turkey Jus* \$59.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Pappardelle Pasta, *Wild Mushroom Ragout* \$59.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday Lunch:**

It's a Wrap

- Confetti Pasta Salad
- Artisan Garden Green Salad
- Wraps - Turkey Bacon Ranch / Grilled Chicken Caesar / Vegetable Wrap
- Assorted Kettle Chips
- Dessert - Brownies & Blondies \$39.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAYMENT** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write in any special dietary allergies and we *will try* to accommodate**



## Additional Notes for Engaging Time Together

### What to wear:

- **During the day – Business Casual** – dresses, jackets, skirts, khakis or dress pants, open-collared shirts, sweaters.
- **At the Shine Your Light Banquet** – Time to dress it up a bit – as much as or as little as you want- but something that makes you feel snazzy. Something fun! Could be something shiny, might be something bright! Razzle dazzle. You are special – so flaunt it!



May we always be a light shining in the darkness  
“Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope”



### Service Project:

**Please consider bringing small flashlights to this convention.**



We are collecting them to *later* distribute them to shelters and organizations that work with victims of domestic violence, which could also include human trafficking. When victims decide to escape their circumstances, it is often in the middle of the night, and they leave quickly and with no time to pack items. Small flashlights can easily fit in their pocket. The flashlight allows a person to see hazards and street signs. May we provide them with a light to shine in their darkness. This size flashlight is available at the Dollar Trees for \$1.25)



Special Speaker: Keep your fingers crossed! It is not cemented yet, but I am so excited that the speaker from Partners for World Health might be its founder, Elizabeth MacLellan herself! When I called and made a request for Elizabeth’s story to be shared and how things grew into this amazing global medical program to improve global health conditions by sending medical personnel, medical supplies and equipment on programs to developing countries each year, I didn’t expect to hear the words, “maybe Elizabeth will be able to speak to your group.” “PWH organizes these programs in partnership with local hospitals and clinics, carrying thousands of pounds of medical supplies to those in need.” This amazing program started out by one woman seeing a need, and acting on it – storing stuff in her garage. Currently though, Elizabeth is in Kenya on a medical mission, distributing birthing kits and providing education. Even if it is someone else who can come, it is Elizabeth’s story I hope to have shared with us. It all began with **one!** “Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope”