




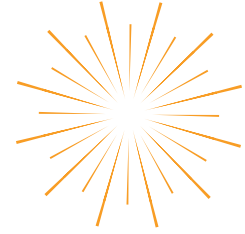
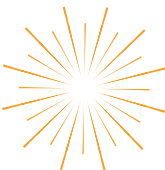

PINE TREE NOTES

GFWC MAINE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2025



“How wonderful it is
that nobody need
wait a single moment
before starting to
improve the world.”
- Anne Frank



Living the Volunteer Spirit

GFWC



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GFWC MAINE



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GFWC MAINE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Can you believe it?!?! Here we are – all ready to spring into action for the second year of this administration. It just doesn't seem possible.

After having recently returned home after attending the GFWC Board of Directors Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, let me just say the entire event was fantastic and time well spent. There were several very engaging speakers, we heard reports from all the GFWC chairmen, the tour around Salt Lake City was amazing, and hearing an organist perform a half hour pipe organ recital was out of this world (held at Conference Center in Temple Square with a seating capacity of 21,000). These are just a few things that took place. On one of the mornings, at the State and DC Federation Presidents Group meeting, Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President, arranged for Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary to lead us in a workshop, "Leadership Transition Planning." Though this was directed to us as state presidents, it is imperative that no matter what position we serve in, (i.e., state president, club president, club treasurer, club yard sale chairman, community service program chairman, etc.) we must pass on to our successors our various files and records. It doesn't mean the next person will do things exactly the same, but it sure provides some excellent guidance and tools to prepare for their own experience. It's a waste of time to have to reinvent the wheel, and it is horrible to go into a new position "cold." We all need continuity from one administration to the next. So, may we all pass along vital information to our successor. I am sure we have all experienced taking on something new to us and had absolutely no idea how to go about it. (YIKES!) I encourage all our leaders to be proactive in this regard.

I am pleased to see that many of our clubs have registered thus far to participate in the GFWC International Day of Service – September 27, 2025. End Domestic and Sexual Violence.

GFWC Gorham Women's Club
GFWC Lubec Woman's Club
GFWC Maine Past State Presidents Club
GFWC MIOSAC Club
GFWC Outlook Club
GFWC Research Club of Limerick
GFWC Semper Fidelis Club
GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club
GFWC Winterport Woman's Club



Since we are having our state meeting on September 24th, GFWC Maine will be participating as well. Come prepared to hear our speaker, Dr. Sarah Holland, who will be speaking about how he got involved with "I Support the Girls" and to learn about the program. Please bring very

gently used bras, or underwear, socks, menstrual hygiene products to donate to the organization.

This information went out in the Call to Fall Conference, but I mention it here to remind you, or if you have not seen the Call – you can find it on the homepage of our website GFWCmaine.org. You can also email me or give me a call. It is not too late to register!

Here's hoping for a great turnout for our conference. Come share in the workshops, hear from Lisa Hanson about her LEADS experience at the GFWC Convention in Atlanta, honor our GFWC Maine Jennie Award Honoree, and more! It will be a wonderful day of learning, getting inspired, and let's not forget, it's such a delightful time to be together (and it gives us a chance to encourage others and to be encouraged!! I need that! How about you?)

One more thing on Fall Conference - Please see the challenge Education and Libraries Chairman Deb Burnham has included in this newsletter. It sounds like fun!

Serving Together,
Suzanne Raymond, GFWC Maine President

GFWC MAINE VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Fall GFWC Maine! I am anxious for fall colors, crisp temperatures, and seeing my GFWC Maine sisters at our Fall Conference on the 24th. I can't wait to hear what great ideas our clubs have come up with for our GFWC International Day of Service on the 27th. I look forward to hearing from our keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Holland, about her work with I Support the Girls. Our Executive Committee will also attempt to inform and entertain all with a fun & "surprise!" This past June I attended the GFWC Convention in Atlanta along side President Suzanne, President-elect Nancy, my club member and GFWC Maine LEADS Ambassador for 2025, Lisa Hanson, and our roommate Past NER President Libby Wiers. Seeing GFWC President Sue Ellen Brazil and her Board in action was amazing, and I learned so much from the keynote speakers, workshop speakers, and Affiliate Organizations representatives. I caught up with LEADS sisters from 2024 at the LEADS breakfast, and particularly enjoyed the GFWC New England Region Luncheon with NER President Tina Smith. I am so glad I reserved a spot on the field trip to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Center - such a worthwhile experience. Through it all, I had oodles of fun, laughter, and great conversations with so many GFWC members; and proudly celebrated the many awards received by GFWC Maine.

In Federation Friendship,
Gloria Aurelio
GFWC Maine Vice President 2024-2026





GFWC ME State President's Project

Good morning, as summer wanes and fall beckons!

A new club year is about to begin with its many suggestions for the use of your club and personal donations. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a project that is dear to my heart, so I am encouraging members and clubs to consider a donation this year to the State President's Project.

In the spring, money was raised at District meetings and Spring Convention - \$740.50. Your generosity during the previous club year was amazing and greatly appreciated. Let's keep the momentum going.

Members and clubs: If you are mailing in donations to St. Jude, the following information must be attached to the donation for GFWC to receive full credit:

5572 ZNEOOZ260159 FON0016DO26

Send to:
ALSAC/St. Jude
Attn. Exchange Room/Jackie Harris
501 St. Jude Place
Memphis, TN 38105

You can also make donations with credit card/check by going to: www.stjude.org/gfwc

As a reminder, if you use number above to donate individually, please report it to your club for inclusion in the annual statistical reports. So much of what members and clubs do goes unsung.

To Marian Sturtevant and Rosemary Holleman, my deepest appreciation for filling in during my absence and being such wonderful assistants. I couldn't do this without you!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference.

Libby Wiers, State President's Project Chairman

GFWC ME Signature Program

Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Greetings, GFWC Maine Clubwomen!

September and October this year are proving to be important for the GFWC Signature Program. September 27 will be our GFWC International Day of Service: Help End Domestic and Sexual Violence. This day unites clubs worldwide for community service, with projects like donations to support victims and raising awareness for related issues. If you haven't registered your club yet to participate, head on over to the member portal on the GFWC website and make sure to do so. International Day of Service has replaced National Day of Service, with the last two years being focused on food insecurity. The member portal has ideas, posters and resources available to help your club plan what project you'd like to complete. One idea is to have a house party - purple themed, and party attendees throw money into a bucket that will be donated to a domestic violence shelter or other cause. (The more people drink, the more generous they get with donations! Haha!) I am excited to see what clubs come up with to honor this very important day.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. GFWC Maine has always been so supportive, with clubs often putting on programs in October having to do with this topic. Inviting a speaker from a shelter or domestic violence organization, or even having a survivor that is willing to speak tell their story - it all has such value and is important for the women in our clubs to hear. At the Spring Convention, a large quantity of flashlights and batteries were collected to be donated to a domestic violence or human trafficking organization in Maine. Shortly after the conference I left for a "I just went through breast cancer" road trip, so the flashlights went into my storage unit - I returned to Maine two weeks ago and have been reaching out to organizations, hoping to find one that will accept this very generous amount of flashlights and batteries. Once they find a home, I will report back with how many flashlights there were, which organization ended up with them, and how they will be used and distributed. Thank you so much for your continued support of this program, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Meeting.

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC ME Signature Program Chairman

GFWC ME

Education & Libraries

“Man builds no structure that outlives a book”
-author unknown



GFWC Maine Fall Conference Challenge

A challenge for GFWC Maine members has been issued by the chairman of the Education and Libraries Program, Deb Burnham. You can experience this challenge while attending the Fall Conference on September 24, 2025 at the Senator Inn and Spa in Augusta.

Remember playing dress up as a kid? What fun it was rummaging through the closets trying to find the right clothes to become someone else, even if only for a few moments. The challenge is to pick a character in a book you have read and dress like that person or thing on September 24th. Become that character throughout at least the morning or the whole day if you desire. Drop hints through conversations with others to see if other members can guess who you are. The purpose is pure fun while stimulating conversation and conjuring up memories of our reading adventures.

Deb Burnham
Education and Libraries Chairman 2024-2026

2024 Environment Statistics:

273,619 Volunteer Hours
6,979. Completed Projects



GFWC ME

Environment

These statistics show GFWC women champion environmental issues. As we look at various programs under the Environment heading we find the ever troubling hunger statistics continuing to get worse. The ultimate goal is to work towards long term change by investing in programs that will prioritize the issue of hunger and perhaps one day we could have a world without hunger. So what's to do ? Consider supporting organizations that work towards ending hunger. One of GFWC's sponsors, HEIFER INTERNATIONAL is an example, as it is their mission to insure impoverished areas have access to sustainable agriculture.

As you prepare your budgets for this next club year I encourage you to consider supporting HEIFER INTERNATIONAL and be a part of the global mission to fight hunger.

Gerry Richardson, GFWC ME Environment Chairman



GFWC ME Membership

DUCK TALES: A CONTINUING STORY OF OUR "FLOCK"

It's time to prioritize our membership, aiming to grow our "flock" as we enter the last year of recruiting and supporting fresh "ducklings during this administration." Let's also empower our committed "hens," our current members, to boost GFWC Maine's membership. We're overcoming obstacles, providing hope, and establishing a solid base for our incredible organization!

As we re-convene for our gatherings this month, let's radiate positive "duck vibes" and be known as the most cheerful members in our "pond." Extend an invitation to a new face at each meeting to share in the camaraderie and the volunteer work we all do in our communities. A refreshing "splash" is always welcome to lift spirits! Where else can one find such enjoyment than at a GFWC Maine club meeting?

Gather all members together, as the duck gathers her brood under her wings, to engage in empowering women in our circle of volunteer community service. So let's make a HUGE SPLASH in our membership pond and enjoy the rewards of building GFWC Maine's membership!

There are two ways to lead as a Mother Duck as President or Chairman. Mother Duck can lead from the back or lead from the front. Leading from behind, is a leadership style that emphasizes support and empowerment. This form of leadership would be a way to handle the "hens" your current members, who are knowledgeable of the work of the club. She stays in the back to provide guidance and encouragement, allowing them to take the lead and make decisions. This approach requires trust in the followers' abilities and willingness to let them lead.

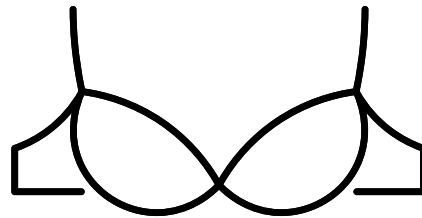
Leading from the front, is a leadership style that emphasizes direction and control. This style is effective where followers need more direction and guidance to achieve goals like the newest "ducklings" - the new members. This approach is a way of supporting and guiding them through unfamiliar situations to learn and gain the experience needed to lead. Both styles are effective and it is important for the "mother duck" to know which style is appropriate for her members to engage and learn to lead effectively.

HELP: Your chairman is requesting for the President or Membership Chair, in your club, to send me the new members names and contact information as soon as possible. What I am looking for is Only those names that have joined your club in the months of July, August, September 2025. Your Chairman needs to report by October 1, 2025 to send to GFWC.

Until next time, know that all of you have “Quacked” your way into this heart. You are the “Ducks” to my pond! Let's have a “Quack Attack” and make every day a “Duck-Tastic” membership day by searching for and adding more “ducklings” this administration. In doing so, we will be honoring President Suzanne as the “Spec-Quackular” leader in membership for GFWC Maine! Let's Do-it Members!

Katherine White, GFWC Maine Membership Chairman

GFWC ME Civic Engagement & Outreach



GFWC Maine Civic Engagement & Outreach

Once again it is time to plan our new club year and the programs we will use to bring variety and assistance where needed as we raise the issues where we might help.

You will learn about “I Support the Girls” at fall conference this year. You will hear from Dr. Sarah Holland who decided her office would become a place where we can donate needed items to homeless women and those who are facing a difficult time. We are encouraged to donate new or gently used bras, new underwear and menstrual products all individually wrapped so the women can find some dignity as they seek to work their way through a difficult time!

I would encourage you to check out www.isupportthegirls.org to learn their scope of operation and just how many women this organization has helped since its founding. We are heartened to know that everything we donate will be distributed to Maine women through other Maine organizations. Please be generous, the need is great.

I hope you have joined the GFWC member’s portal at www.gfwc.org where you can see all the programs that Civic Engagement & Outreach has available for you to participate in. You can focus on things your club is particularly interested in and you will find a plethora of ideas of things to do for that program!

Sally Manchester, GFWC Maine Civic Engagement and Outreach Program Chairman

GFWC ME

MAINE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

GFWC has seen the latest attendees of the Leadership Education and Development Seminar receive their certificates and return to their respective states to share what they learned and continue their leadership journeys. The same can be said about the high school sophomores around the state who attended the Maine Youth Leadership seminar this past May. These young people will be the leaders of tomorrow and received help to develop their leadership skills and were hopefully motivated to return to their communities and help to improve them through volunteer service.

I want to ask you to please consider including Maine Youth Leadership as a part of your annual club budget. Donations from organizations like ours are essential for MYL to be able to continue the work they do with our youth. MYL does fundraising and has sponsors and counts on donations to reach their goals. It takes \$400 to cover the cost of each student to attend the seminar. GFWC Maine donated a whopping \$1,841 to Maine Youth Leadership for the 2025 seminar. I am reissuing my challenge to you to donate as much as you can for 2026 and hopefully GFWC Maine will be able to present MYL with \$2,000. I know we can do it!

Carol Jarvais, GFWC Maine Youth Leadership Chairman

GFWC ME

Epsilon Sigma Omicron



Dear club members September marks the start of our club year. I recently received the newsletter from our national ESO chairman, Dana Jones. She is encouraging local club presidents and ESO chairman to promote reading in our communities. So if this is something your ESO members would like to do give me a call and I will send you her suggestions for your club's possible state ESO award entry. She has some interesting suggestions. I encourage you to save time for yourself to read as well. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Marjorie H. Coburn-Black, GFWC ME ESO Chairman

GFWC Lubec Women's Club

“Records are made to be broken”

The Lubec Women's Club (LWC) has enjoyed an active and productive few months with a dash of social time thrown in for good measure. Following our presentation of five scholarships to deserving area graduates in June the group quickly turned their attention to our largest fund raising event of the year “The Whale of a Sale” yard sale which has become very popular for area residents and visitors alike. Jolene Doran put out the challenge to exceed the amount raised from the previous year which was a record for the club. In true LWC fashion, the ladies rolled up their sleeves and logged over 200 hours of volunteer time to ensure this sale would be like no other. All the goods were donated and beyond a silent auction and a \$5 table the items were not marked with a price but a donation of “what ever you think it is worth” was accepted. Each worker brought their own individual talents and expertise to bear and when the doors opened on July 3rd people were waiting in line for a chance to view all the treasures. Special thanks to our president Julia Brady who lead the team and set up the drop off and set up schedule and also fielded all the calls for donations. It was a huge success and set a record for the most active participation by club members of any event this year. During the year the LWC provides monthly treat trays for teachers and treat bags for the residents of the Lubec Senior Housing units so the group decided it was time to treat ourselves and on August 11th, twenty-six members enjoyed a catered luncheon to celebrate our efforts over the past year. During the opening comments Julia Brady announced the final tally for the funds raised from the sale and the group erupted in cheers and applause as it had indeed exceeded our record from the previous year. Ruth Ahrens is pleased with the response from our annual “500 Raffle Sale” where 500 tickets are sold for a this years prize package of over \$1200 in gift cards for goods and services from the Lubec area. Another record broken. The winning ticket will be drawn in October. The group will meet for the fall kick off on September 8th at the Lubec Christian Fellowship Church at 1pm. Service to our little town with a big heart will be the focus of discussion.

Submitted by Cindy Ferriere, GFWC Lubec Woman's Club



GFWC Newport Women's Club

The GFWC Newport Woman's Club recessed for the summer months but members remained busy. Their primary fundraiser is a gift basket raffle promoted at Newport's Annual Riverwalk Festival. Members reach out to local establishments for donations of gift cards, gas cards, Walmart cards etc. The basket is then topped off with several scratch tickets. All is then beautifully put together with a seasonal theme, valued at approximately \$700.



Members have tickets to sell prior to the festival. Then members "work the grounds" continuing to sell tickets at the festival, sporting their bright blue aprons with the GFWC logo. Again this year this was a very successful and fun filled event.

Several members have been busy with the Norma's Dolls project. Baby dolls are collected from yard sales, Good Will, or anywhere they can be found. They are laundered, their hair styled, clothed, placed in a handmade wooden cradle with a pillow and a blanket all readied for Christmas giving to children in need.

We start the club year with a full slate of officers and a full calendar. Some new members have been added to our roster and we anticipate further growth in the upcoming club year.

Gerry Richardson, Secretary, GFWC Newport Woman's Club

GFWC Outlook Club

Summer of course is the time when meetings stop and lake festivities start! The GFWC Outlook Club put our minds together to come up with a way to fundraise AND promote fun. The St. Albans Summerfest was held on July 19th, and we shared a booth with the Hartland Public Library where we sold raffle tickets for a chance to win one of five water floats - the unicorn float even lit up in the dark! Our very own Libby Wiers won the unicorn, much to the joy of her granddaughters. This fundraiser earned \$214 for our club, which is really wonderful for such a small-town festival! We are looking forward to the year ahead and hope to see you all at the Fall Meeting!

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC Outlook Club President

GFWC MIOSAC Club

Several club members and their husbands placed pinwheels at the Methodist church, which looked pretty blowing in the wind.

A collection jar raised \$169.74 for president Suzanne Raymond's Special Project, St. Jude Children's Hospital. A very worthy project!

The High School Art Contest got off to a slow start, but finally came to fruition. The winners were sent to the District Meeting. 3 members attended the Meeting in Newport. This is always a fun Meeting and the ladies do a great job on the luncheon.

Vice President and Publicity Chairman, Minnie McCormick painted GFWC signs. She presented a large sign to Club President, Laurie Ducat. She also gave smaller signs to members with instructions to display them "where they can be seen."

Four members attended Spring Convention: GFWC Maine President, Suzanne Raymond; Convention Chairman, Anne Cress; Delegates Fund Chairman, Minnie McCormick; Scrapbook Chairman, Vicki Moschella.

Anne Cress gave a beautiful Memorial Service for members who have passed in the last year.

Eleven members attended the 89th Birthday Party, with Anne Cress offering grace.

We are all grateful that the local paper publishes our news. Minnie McCormick does the writing and Vicki Moshella takes the photos.

Hoping you all had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all in Augusta at the Fall Conference.

Minnie McCormick, GFWC MIOSAC Club



GFWC Winterport Women's Club

Our Club has had a very busy spring/summer season! In May four of our members attended GFWC Maine Spring Conference in Freeport. We were thrilled to be given the Environment Creativity Award for our "For the Birds" program, a State Award for our projects involving Awareness and Prevention of Domestic Abuse, as well as the Civic Engagement Creativity Award for our bench restoration project. We also were awarded first place in the scrapbook competition! No rest for the weary, our very successful annual perennial plant sale took place directly after the Spring Convention.

In early June Lisa, GFWC Maine LEADS ambassador, and Gloria, GFWC Maine VP, represented us well at the National GFWC Convention in Atlanta. During our annual dinner meeting in mid June, held at a member's lovely bayside cottage, we honored our Spirit of America award winner, Phylis Allen. Phylis has been the coordinator and the driving force for our local Neighbor's Cupboard Food Pantry for many years and has made a huge positive difference in our community.

Our Community Plantings Committee has been hard at work planting, mulching, weeding, and watering our many annual pots, containers, and community gardens scattered throughout the town. In August we provided an information table at the open house for the Union Meeting House. Our Club presented the Union Meeting House and the Winterport Historical Association large monetary donations for their restorative projects.

Our Calendar Committee has also been hard at work this summer with our new 2026 calendar, which is finished and currently in production! These will be sold at the polls in November.

We are looking forward to our NDS project: a giant yard sale to benefit New Hope Midcoast and our first membership meeting of the season in September. Several of us plan to attend the Fall Conference in September. We hope to see many of you there!

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



Board member Claudette presenting Kim Pitula with check for Union Meeting House restoration.



Lisa & Gloria in Atlanta!

21 Club of Kezar Falls

21 Club has been on hiatus during the summer. We are looking forward to gathering back together on September 10 for a "Welcome Back" potluck supper. 21 Club will be supporting MSAD #55's students by bringing items for the Comfort Closet to our first meeting. The Comfort Closet is stocked with items children need, such as socks, underwear, hygiene items. Maslow's theory emphasizes that for academic success, their basic needs must first be met. These include physiological needs like food, water, and sleep; only after these needs are satisfied can students focus on higher-level goals. We are proud to support our schools and students.

The CIP committee has taken on organizing and improving the nature walk trail at the public beach. An early summer spruce up was held and plans are in the works to identify interesting natural features and create signs to educate the public on the wonders of nature all around us.

More exciting news! 21 Club was nominated and has received for the Spirit of America Award through the town of Parsonsfield! Club members have been invited to attend the Town Meeting on Sept 5th. We are excited to get our name out in the community and be recognized for the good work we do.

21 Club wishes all our GFWC sisters a productive, successful and rewarding year. And let's not forget laughter, love and camaraderie!

"Our true worth is the good we do in the world."

Jean Stanley, GFWC 21 Club of Kezar Falls



GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club

Over the past few months our Club has been busy engaging in a variety of meaningful activities that have brought our communities together and showcased the incredible talents of the students. One of the highlights was the Westbrook High School Art Show where the students displayed their creativity. We celebrated their achievements by presenting the winners with a financial prize as well as a well deserved certificate encouraging continued artistic expression among our youth. Anne Newman and Joyce Noonan both from the Westbrook Club and Co-presidents of the Southern District hosted the District Art Show in Westbrook providing a larger platform for the students to gain recognition.

Beyond the arts, our club organized a heartfelt soup luncheon that successfully raised funds for St. Jude Research Hospital, demonstrating our commitment to making a positive impact beyond our immediate community.

As our health initiative, we were also privileged to welcome Dr Linda Sanborn as a guest speaker, who shared her expertise on women's health, inspiring us to prioritize wellness and education. To further engage our community, we organized a calendar raffle that turned out to be a tremendous success, bringing friends, families, local merchants and neighbors together in support of our initiatives. These activities exemplify our club's dedication to fostering creativity, compassion and community spirit.



GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club

From busy schedules to trips and volunteering for other groups, the club women have found it hard to even meet to organize the year.

Two meetings were arranged and even with small attendance, those there had brought ideas. Our group draws from surrounding towns of Canaan, Solon, and Norridgewock so we try to keep abreast of their town efforts and needs.



We start our year touring the Skowhegan History House on Elm Street. Many report they have never been and others share it has been a while for them. After this visit we will stop down the road to meet at Skowhegan Free Public Library to finish planning our year.

An Archival Committee is working on preserving our one hundred forty-three years of history with help from Mel Burnham, former director of Skowhegan History House, who shared techniques, gave guidance on what and how to preserve and helped with sites to the club could purchase archival sheets, boxes needed for the many wonderful items in need of preserving.

The committee will continue to do this work until all our precious history is safe for the future.

We are fortunate that Maxine Russakoff has given a significant amount of money for this purpose. GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club wants to thank her for this generous gift.

Hope to see many of you at the GFWC Maine Fall Conference on September 24, 2025 at Senator Inn & Spa.

Deb Burnham, GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club Leadership Team, 2024-2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

GFWC Maine Fall Conference

September 24, 2025

Senator Inn & Spa - Augusta, ME

GFWC New England Region Conference

October 31 - November 2, 2025

Mill Falls at the Lake - Meredith, NH

GFWC Maine Spring Convention

May 14 - 15, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn - Bangor, ME

GFWC Annual Convention

June 26 - 29, 2026

The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa - Scottsdale, AZ