



**GFWC**

est. 1890

**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**MAINE**

# PINE TREE NOTES

GFWC MAINE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2025

**A Collect for Women**

*Mary Stewart*

**Keep us oh God from pettiness;**

**Let us be large in thought, in word, and deed.**

**Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.**

**May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,  
without self pity and without prejudice.**

**May we never be hasty in judgment and always gracious.**

**Let us take time for all things and grow calm, serene, gentle.**

**Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
straightforward and unafraid.**

**Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,  
that in the big things of life we are at one.**

**And may we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all.**

**And oh Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!**

# *Living the Volunteer Spirit*

## **GFWC**



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## **GFWC MAINE**



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## **GFWC MAINE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Greetings to each of you!

The leaves are changing colors as quickly as we turn the pages in a book. And with the season's change, so too are the chapters in our lives - winter, spring, summer and fall. Can you believe that in just 6 months, we will be entering the next chapter of GFWC Maine? As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!" but this feels like warp speed! Don't misunderstand me, my friends, this is not a period of winding down, it is a time of reflection of what we have accomplished, but just as important, we are gearing up for the future! What's the plan of succession? (Not just for GFWC Maine, but for each and every one of our clubs!) Speaking about GFWC Maine though, I am thrilled with the many wonderful things accomplished and the excellent presentations that took place at our fall conference this past September. Thank you to the many hands that made it all possible. There are a lot of working parts to holding our state meetings, and without the talents and the support of many, and without attendance and participation, it would all fall flat. The afternoon was filled with workshops and presentations geared specifically to having a half day session for Leadership, Education, and Development and I commend each of our presenters for all their preparations, and for our members being fully engaged and offering wonderful participation during the interactive segments.

Our participation in GFWC International Day of Service was incredible. Listening to Dr. Sarah Holland speak about I Support the Girls and why she got involved with this important cause was so inspiring. Thanks to your generosity, the tables were overflowing with the items that members and clubs donated – it was heartwarming. New and gently used bras, new socks, underwear, menstrual hygiene products, and toiletries were piled high. Special thanks to Sally Manchester, GFWC Maine Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman for bringing this organization to our attention! Kudos to each of you! I tell you what, I went home recharged!! (well, after a day of rest!).

Now, to get back to my earlier comment. . . "we are gearing up for the future. What's the plan of succession?" As we focus on the work that presently faces us, we also strive to prepare for the future and I am happy to share that the nominating committee announced the slate of candidates hoping to become the officers for the 2026-2028 Administration; the election will take place next May. I want to call attention to the fact that more is going on in regard to planning for the next term. President-elect Nancy Ames is reaching out to fill positions for the next administration, but please, don't hesitate to reach out to her and offer your service. Let her know your interests and your talents. She would love to hear from you!

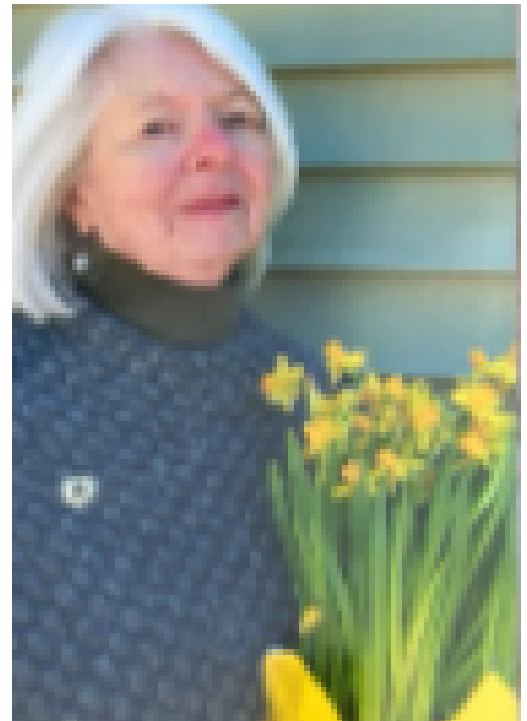
I am looking forward to attending the New England Region Conference that is being held in New Hampshire this year. I am hoping to see many of you there! Later in the month of November I will be visiting with the 21 Club ( I have heard there may be GFWC Research Club members as well). A couple days later I will head to Gorham to attend their club's sensational milestone celebration – it's their 100-year Anniversary! Just think of the things that would not have happened in Gorham and surrounding communities if not for the many years of service that clubwomen have been providing. Congratulations, GFWC Gorham Woman's Club!

As you start marking your new 2026 calendars, be sure to mark May 14-15, 2026 to attend the next state meeting. We will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor. Our special guest will be GFWC International President Suellen Brazil! What an awesome opportunity this will be to have this inspiring dynamic leader with us! More details will be available later on. For now, I encourage you to lock in the dates. As we approach the holiday season, make a mental note to gift yourself an outing this spring – May 14-15 th Spring Convention! We would love to see you!

I cannot close this letter of thanks and holiday giving without giving a shout out and congratulations to our GFWC Maine Jennie Honoree – Gloria Aurelio who was presented, recognized and cheered at our fall conference. I look forward to having a chance to see her recognized again, this time beside the other New England State Jennie winners at the upcoming Region Conference. We are all so proud of Gloria and so very fortunate that she is a part of our organization!!

I wish you all a happy healthy holiday season – filled with good health and cheer. Keep on doing what you do best – Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope.

In Federation Friendship,  
Suzanne Raymond, President



***~LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT~***

## **GFWC MAINE VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Greetings GFWC Maine!

Autumn has flown by, and we look forward to the cheer and busy (sometimes hectic!) days of the holiday season. I anticipate three days of fun, friendship, and education at the GFWC NER Conference in New Hampshire. I hope to see many of you there, as well as the new friends I have made in our New England region.

Our GFWC Maine Fall Conference was a great success with information, education, and fun packed into our one-day meeting in Augusta. Our Executive Committee Meeting the evening before brought to fruition President Suzanne's and Committee's diligent work on the Educational Loan Fund, and the creation of our GFWC Maine Strategic Plan. I am learning so much from our dedicated team!

I was honored to submit data from our state federation to GFWC for the 2025 International Day of Service. Our state clubs collected a total of 1,023 items for I Support the Girls, which included 202 bras, 415 undies, 319 pair of socks, and numerous feminine hygiene products! All items were graciously received to be distributed by I Support the Girls official Maine affiliate, Dr. Sarah Holland, and her assistant.

A happy and blessed holiday season of giving and sharing to all!  
Gloria Aurelio, GFWC Maine Vice President

## **GFWC MAINE TREASURER**

Happy Holidays My GFWC Maine Friends!!

Just a reminder that club dues to GFWC Maine are \$25.00 per club member this year and **MUST** be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2025 to be considered for any membership award including the Carolyn Lombardi Award. Also on this page is a facsimile of the remittance form which I hope each club treasurer will copy and include with all checks that will be coming my way. As you might imagine, the holiday season generates tons of mail and I am hoping my "remittance form system" will make it easier to organize the mail which I will receive from you. Please indicate if you would like an email confirmation that I have received your check. If you have any questions, email me at [briggs106@roadrunner.com](mailto:briggs106@roadrunner.com) or call me at 207-341-0380 (cell). Have a great Holiday Season. Happy Thanksgiving...Merry Christmas...and Have a Happy New Year!

Jane Briggs, GFWC Maine Treasurer





Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ # of members \_\_\_\_\_ Club

Name, Treasurer and email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check

amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose this remittance form along with a check made payable to GFWC Maine and  
mail to :

Jane Briggs  
GFWC Maine Treasurer  
106 Libby Hill Rd.  
Newport, ME 04953

Please send a separate check and remittance form for each item.

Club dues are payable at \$25.00 per member and **MUST** be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2025.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ # of members \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name, Treasurer and email address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## **GFWC ME Signature Program**

### *Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention*

Greetings, GFWC Maine Clubwomen!

As we move into the holiday season, I want to acknowledge and thank all of the clubs that made “International Day of Service” a success. The focus was ending domestic and sexual violence, to coincide with October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As the Chairman of this all too important program, I was delighted by the various programs and initiatives that clubs throughout the state participated in. The GFWC Semper Fidelis Club organized a self defense course, with speakers from the local police department and the Family Violence Project. Wonderful job, ladies!

Often we collect donations for various organizations and once they are dropped off, we never hear about it again. I have an informative, yet chilling tale to tell about the flashlights that we collected at Spring Convention. When I returned from my summer travels, I reached out to multiple organizations in the area to see if they would accept the flashlights. The only organization to respond was “Safe Voices” in Lewiston. They currently operate the ONLY shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties. When I dropped off the flashlights, Grace Kendall, the Director of Development and Engagement, informed me that they would disperse the flashlights to their various safe houses and programs. On October 16, Grace emailed me and shared a story about how one of our flashlights saved a woman's life. Here is the email from Grace:

“Dear Harmony,

I was chatting with one of our advocates earlier, and she shared a story I thought you and your group would like to hear. She shared that she's handed flashlights out to many folks already, and one specific story that is chilling, but I thought would be good for your group to hear to know the impact their donation made. A survivor with an active PFA (restraining order) against her ex was home alone and heard someone open the door and heard footsteps in her home. She called 911, and they talked with her while she hid, heard him leave, and snuck out a different exit to make her way to her car and go stay with a safe family member for the night. She had her donated flashlight with her, and 911 still on the line, and she used the flashlight to check the backseat before she got in, and lo and behold, her abuser was hiding on the floor in the backseat. She was able to run back to the house and lock the doors, and the police were already on their way and arrived very soon after. He was arrested, and she is safe.

This was such a small part of her safety plan — to have a flashlight with her at all times — but it turned out to be incredibly important and possibly saved her life. It's rare that we have a story that can be SO closely tied to a donation, but when it happens, it's gratifying to be able to share it with the people involved. Please share with your group, and again share my thanks with them."

Unbelievable. I hope that hearing this story inspires you to continue the work that you do, with the understanding that it absolutely DOES make a difference in the lives of the people that we support.

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC ME Signature Program Chairman

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## **GFWC ME Education & Libraries**



"Books are uniquely portable magic." shared author Stephen King so I offer a few ideas to keep the magic of reading sprinkled through our state.

- Check in with your local library to hear what support they may need
- Donate books through community organizations during the holidays / not only a book but pajamas to feel cozy as the recipient reads
- Create a small gift bag for grand child, neighbor, or the giving tree person filled with (a book, hot chocolate, tea, bookmark, socks, popcorn, etc)
- Offer someone a chance to buy any book in the store as a reward or as a birthday gift
- Join the on-line ESO Group for book discussions and suggestions: recently this book, "The Woman They Could Not Silence," by Kate Moore was reviewed with high praise.
- Our affiliate, UNICEF USA has many programs it funds so a donation from you and or your club would continue their efforts

Deb Burnham  
Education and Libraries Chairman 2024-2026



## **GFWC ME Environment**



In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order that created the Unified National Park System. GFWC members played an integral role advocating for the protection of lands for public recreation. We continue to focus on the preservation and clean up of these resources and landscapes in our communities.

Park Rangers and Park employees have the task of taking care of our forests, parks and environment. In these days, 2025, of the US Government Shutdown, these public servants are unemployed. In their absence, it's imperative that we act as stewards and care for these resources. As you enjoy these resources consider being "a ranger for a day" and cleaning up an area near you.

### **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**

The holiday season is a season of "tradition." **START A TRADITION- FEED A FAMILY** Heifer offers many opportunities to make a difference. Feeding a hungry family starts with your.....EGGstraordinary gift! Your gift of **CHICKENS** .

1. The family receives and cares for the chickens.
2. The chickens provide protein-packed eggs for children to eat and parents to sell.
3. Together with other farmers a cooperation is formed to get better prices.
4. They grow their business and reach new markets.
5. They earn a reliable income and break free from hunger and poverty.

And it **ALL STARTS WITH YOU** and your gift of chickens!

Gerry Richardson, Environment Chairman 2024 - 2026

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## **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 ME**

### **Legislative & Public Policy**

A visit with a local, state or federal legislator, or their local staff can be an effective way for you or your club members to advocate for a specific cause. Here are some things to consider in planning for such a visit.

1. Who will be attending? Are you going as a an individual club member, a small group, or a larger club group? Make sure you coordinate planning if going in a group. Consider wearing GFWC logo wear (even if just the GFWC pin!)
2. What are you advocating? If going as a GFWC club member, make sure you align your advocacy with GFWC resolutions. No politics - just advocacy!
3. When are you planning to visit? Arrange a specific date and get the appointment in advance. Make sure the legislative body is in session.
4. Where are you going? Are you meeting in the local, state or federal office? If finances are a consideration, perhaps you consider meeting with local office and staff.
5. How will you guarantee a successful visit or day? Practice your message ahead of time. Hold a “mock session” or trial run before the big day. Keep it short and concise. If a group, each member should have specific talking points to the issue.
6. How should you conclude the meeting? Prepare a “leave behind” sheet. This packet stays with the individual legislator or staffer that has hosted your visit. In it, have a summary of what GFWC is, a summary of the problem or cause you have presented, a summary of your proposed solution, a statement of what your legislator can do to help, a list of other groups or organizations that are supporters and contact information.
7. Send a follow up thank you note via email. In the email, first and foremost, thank the legislator for his/her time, then restate the size of GFWC or your particular federation, restate your position and what you are asking the legislator to do, mention like minded organizations in your community, and close with a warm statement that includes your contact information.

One of the most powerful tools, we have in advocating for change is our voice. Legislators listen to their constituents and monitor public opinion polls. What you have to say does matter! Be bold, and use your voice!  
Change does not happen, if we do not act.

Gloria Leveillee, Legislative & Public Policy Chairman



## **GFWC ME**

### **Health & Wellness**

In May our GFWC Maine Convention was held in Freeport. One of our speakers was Elizabeth Mc Lellan founder of Partners for World Health. We were shown what ONE woman with a vision can do to change a situation. Ms. McLellan was able to take discarded medical supplies and bless both local and world communities. Many of us were challenged as to how we could help this organization.

Gloria Leveille and I, members of the GFWC Maine Research Club of Limerick, decided to organize a medical supply drop off day. Over the course of the next three months we were able to secure the parking lot of The Hollis Center Church, Hollis, ME., and the date of September 27th from 9:30 am to 1p.m. to sponsor such an event.

The 27th of September was a beautiful day. At 9:15 the Partners for World Health truck rolled in with Harry as the driver. Soon donations started to arrive. People from local GFWC Maine clubs, the Research Club, church members and readers of newspapers brought walkers, canes, orthopedic boots, and other medical supplies. Harry organized these items into bins that were located in the back of the truck.

It was a rewarding day and people commented on how pleased that they were able to locally donate items.

Perhaps your GFWC Maine Club would be willing to sponsor such a drop of day too.

Lovedy Alexander, Health and Wellness Chairman



## GFWC ME Elder Abuse Scholarship

A HUGE THANK YOU to our membership for the generous donations made from the clubs and individuals to our essay scholarship. Without your continued support we could not continue to provide this scholarship to our high school seniors in Maine.

This coming June 15, 2026, will be our 10th year awarding the \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior in Maine. What a wonderful milestone! In the past nine years the seniors that have been awarded the scholarship have had exceptional essays, with this year's winner being no exception. Elaine (Lainey) Doran, was our 2025 Statewide Essay Contest Winner from Marshwood High School, in York County. Lainey is attending University of South Carolina, majoring in Advertising. She is interested in brand and social media



management. Those who were at Fall conference heard Lainey's essay and my hope is it will inspire you to continue to donate to our essay scholarship. If anyone would like a copy of Lainey's essay contact me and I will send one to you.

Your support and donations make it possible for our scholarship to continue and it will be a pleasure to be selecting another winning essay in 2026 from one of our exceptional seniors in Maine!

Please continue to send your donations this year so to keep our funding strong for years to come. We almost made 100% of clubs donating last year! What a tribute it would be if on our 10th year our State Federation had 100% of clubs donating!! Your Chair hopes each club will consider the request and join in to make it happen! I believe in your support for this scholarship and know you will make it happen.

Your donations should be sent to to our Treasurer, Jane Briggs, 106 Libby Hill Road, Newport, ME 04953 with the notation on the check Elder Abuse Essay. Please also send me the amount of your donation and your club's name for my records. You can email the information to [dawklw@gmail.com](mailto:dawklw@gmail.com) or mail to my address 15 Memorial Drive, Winterport ME 04496.

It is so important to continue the talk about the topic of elder abuse and to help educate our “seniors, the ones in high school,” on the importance to learn about elder abuse. With education and talking about the subject of elder abuse they may be the generation that will make the difference for our elders, and we will not need to address the horrific topic of elders being abused. There is NO EXCUSE FOR ELDER ABUSE.

Here's to Wishing my Federation sisters a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year!

Katherine (Kathy) White, Chairman

## GFWC ME Membership



MEMBERSHIP IS ME and YOU in MAINE

Another great conference is in the books! Kudos, to our President Suzanne, for organizing and presiding over such a very well run fall conference and thank yous to the GFWC Maine Officers, Board, Chairmen and Members that made for a “Ducking-Tastic” Fall Conference. It was full of wonderful information, recognition of our LEADS graduate and State Jennie winner, plus great speakers! .

Adding to our membership builds stronger and healthier Clubs. Your Chairman is proud of all the work that has been accomplished in our first year of this administration. You are the “webbed feet” that keep us grounded. With that said, don't slow down, lets keep the momentum going! Don't stop “quackin' up” for membership! We still have several months to continue to add more new “ducklings”/members to our pond/Clubs. Keep paddling your way up stream, “quacking” about the good news when joining the best volunteer service organization in our state! There are many new potential members out there just waiting to know and learn about our Federation. They just don't know it yet! Share your history and accomplishments and why you joined your Club. A great answer might be –“ to find a quack-tastic volunteer service opportunity! Adding new members give new ideas, added energy and friendships that benefit our GFWC Maine as well as your clubs and you. New members are the key to “quackin' the code to happiness in volunteer service.”

Your Chairman hopes that everyone has been working on the Membership Challenge that was introduced at the conference. The information that was available at conference is included in this PTN edition so everyone will know the rules to have the opportunity to win the \$50 prize for gaining new dues paid members by December 31, 2025. This is the deadline to have emailed your information to me. Please submit the names of your new member, email address, phone number and very importantly the date dues was paid to be eligible for the prize. Refer to the page with all the information and feel free to contact me with any questions. 207-944-5519 or email [dawklw@gmail.com](mailto:dawklw@gmail.com) The goal is that ALL our Clubs will gain at least one new member during the challenge. Wouldn't that just be drizzled with “Duck-iliciousness” for our clubs!!

Remember you are the quack to my woddle, the quack-er jacks to living our best life and our pond's greatest treasure! Thank you for letting me quack up with you, our GFWC Maine Flock! I am just “winging” it, one “quack” at a time. For now it is time for me to “Duck Tape” my quackin' for this edition.

Your Chairman Wishes our Flock a Quack-tastic Holiday and a Feather-ful New Year!

Kathy White, GFWC Maine Membership Chairman





**GFWC MAINE MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!!  
HOW DOES \$50 CASH SOUND FOR YOUR CLUB?**

**Maine Membership “Mama Duck” wants to challenge each club member to find more members (“ducklings”) for your club that will benefit your Club and our GFWC Maine Pond ... with the bonus ... of possibly adding \$50 to your club's treasury!! Your membership chair is serious about membership and is willing to put the “bucks up for ducks” in support of our GFWC Maine membership!!**

**RULES: Very Simple!!**

- 1. Dates – September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 members invite and add new PAID members to your Club during these dates ONLY!**
- 2. Send to Maine Membership Chairman, via email, Kathy White @dawklw@gmail.com the name of your Club, your President's name, the New member's name, the new members contact information, and the date individual paid her dues. All information must be to me, membership chairman No later than December 31, 2025 to qualify for the cash award.**
- 3. The winning Club will be the Club with the most paid new members by December 31. If a tie then those Clubs will be put in a drawing to determine the winning Club. The Club will be notified to receive the cash award from the ME (Maine) Membership Chair, and the winning club will be included in the Jan/Feb. edition of the Pine Tree Notes.**
- 4. Contact Kathy White at (207) 944-5519 or email dawklw@gmail.com**

**JOIN THE CHALLENGE AND LET'S ADD TO OUR FLOCK!**



## GFWC ME

### Civic Engagement & Outreach

GFWC Maine Clubwomen you are so awesome!! The outpouring of items that you donated for the Civic Engagement and Outreach program for I Support the Girls was just outstanding!! I wish you could all have been there to witness the outcome, it was just mind-blowing!!

We collected a total of 1023 items; panties, bras, socks, menstrual items plus some toothpaste and lip balm!!!

I am humbled, overwhelmed, grateful and so very appreciative of all you gave to this program.

This Chairman hopes you will look to Civic Engagement and Outreach projects to add to the variety of the programs you present to your members this year and next.

I wish a most Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season – may we all pause during these special times to reflect on and make a list of all the things we are thankful for.

Think on these things: in the words of Barbara Karnes, noted hospice author and speaker.

- \*Where did I find Joy today?
- \*What did I do that was fulfilling?
- \*Did I do something that I am not pleased about? Can I fix it?
- \*What did I trade a day of my life for?
- \*What did I do with this wonderful gift that God gave me?

Sally Manchester, GFWC Maine Civic Engagement and Outreach Program Chairman



## **GFWC Lubec Women's Club**

“ecThe leaves are falling but membership is rising as the Lubec women's Club (LWC) welcomed two new members at the September fall kick off event. Prior to our regular business meeting Bill Clark, owner and operator of the West Quoddy Station, entertained the ladies with local stories from his Blog “Bill”.

The annual GFWC day of service on Saturday, September 27, saw members sitting in the sunshine outside of the Lyons IGA to collect feminine products and toilet paper for the local food bank. The community gives strong support for this event and it was very encouraging to receive praise from the patrons for the LWC's efforts.

Diane Mann was presented her 60 year pin by Club President Julia Brady, at the October 6th meeting. A reception followed after a presentation on computer scams and telephone fraud was given by Elaine Abbot from the Sunrise Council. The Next meeting is on November 3rd and Jane Lanctot, inventor, musician and valued club member, will share some of her life experiences.

The “500 Raffle” tickets sold out and the draw was held on October 13th with members present. The lucky winner was contacted by phone and Ruth Ahrens spoke with the man from out of state, who wished to remain anonymous, and was directed to donate the over \$1200 dollars in gift cards and certificates to the “Toys and Treasures” charity in Lubec which will distribute them to local families as part of their Christmas Campaign. Generosity is a great virtue and on display every where in this small town.

The LWC will pack treat bags on October 23rd to distribute to the seniors apartments residents on October 25th. This is always a fun event for the receivers AND the givers.

Lubec sees the sunrise first in America. We are up and ready to serve every day.

Submitted by Cindy Ferriere, GFWC Lubec Woman's Club



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

The GFWC Newport Woman's Club had several members who attended the Fall Conference in Augusta. At our Oct. meeting ,an extensive report of the conference was presented by a "first time attendee". Her enthusiasm for her experience at her first conference reminded each of us of the amount of effort put into our conferences and how much information is to be gained. Sometimes it takes NEW EYES to awaken us.

November 7th. is the date of our group sponsored Alzheimer Walk. We are encouraging other members of the community to walk alongside us. Each year has seen a growing number of participants and amount raised.

Once again we support our local Food Cupboard. Monetary donations were collected in October. Food bank representatives suggested we consider monetary donations with which they are able to provide considerably more product to the customer.

Food Cupboards are seeing a large increase in their foot traffic during these times of Government Shutdown. Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves are items also requested.

In October, the Plymouth Card Makers provided a workshop at The Newport Cultural Center. There was a great sense of accomplishment as members created Fall designed cards for their personal use.

The theme of the November meeting is "Women In The Military." Gift cards for The Veteran's Home in Bangor will be collected.

One of our members, a retired Kindergarten teacher of many years, suggested we consider looking at our WOMAN TO CHILD program through a different lens. For 20 plus years we have supplied school supplies to Kindergarten teachers their first day of school. This year, with the aid of generous supporters, we have provided \$200 to each of the 9 Kindergarten teachers in RSU19 to be used for some of the many incidental expenses they incur. These checks were received with GREAT appreciation.

We continue to work on our membership role and hope to grow substantially in the near future.

Gerry Richardson, Secretary, GFWC Newport Woman's Club



## GFWC Winterport Women's Club

Our club started the season off with a delightful "Bring a Friend Potluck" membership meeting in September during which we gained 5 new members! Lisa, our VP, led a very entertaining "getting to know you" activity in which members and guests were encouraged to submit one interesting, amusing, or unusual fact about themselves that others would probably not know. As the fact was stated, the group was challenged to match the fact with the person. We learned some pretty incredible things about each other while having fun doing so!

We had six members attend the GFWC Maine Fall Conference in Augusta. Jenn lead the pledge, Lisa shared a very emotional presentation on her experience during LEADS training in Atlanta, and Gloria was presented with the Jennie June award for the state of Maine! Kathy presented the amazing winning entry of the Elder Abuse Essay Contest. As if all that wasn't enough excitement, Gloria was nominated for the president elect position for GFWC Maine for the 2026-28 administration and Lisa was nominated for the VP position! The Conference was a wonderful sharing of sisterhood with great speakers and workshops!

Three days after the conference our club sponsored a very successful giant yard sale for our IDS project. The proceeds of this sale were delivered to New Hope Mid Coast, an agency that supports victims of domestic abuse. On the same day, our club also organized and sold used books to benefit our local library during their annual Fall Festival.

The Winterport Historical Association hosted our October meeting at their museum. They are in the process of putting together several professionally recorded oral histories from some of the senior members of our town. We were treated to two of these interviews - one a member, one a long time past member of our club!

Five of us are planning on attending the NE Region Conference in Meredith NH at the end of the month. We hope we will see many of you there!

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





## **GFWC Skowhegan Women's Club**

Five members of our club were able to attend the GFWC Fall Conference in Augusta. Suzanne organized a full day of learning, members had time to connect with each other and enjoy hearing about the many activities of our sister clubs. A little of GFWC History was learned, leadership and meeting skills reinforced. The initiative, I Support the Girls Program was highlighted by Dr. Sarah Holland, Plastic Surgeon and Aesthetics for women. Her business has become the Maine affiliate for this effort of supporting women in providing basic needs of underwear and feminine hygiene products. GFWC Maine members overflowed a table of over a thousand items donated: bras, panties, socks and feminine products were ready for Dr. Holland to distribute as need arises. GFWC Maine clubs answer the call when donations are asked for time and time again.

Our club enjoyed a talk in October from Pam Partridge, AARP Speaker about fraud on-line and our phones. Many helpful tips were given. In November the group will meet at Norridgewock Public Library with librarian Kelly, to hear of the many programs offered to all ages in the community. December will be a celebration of the holidays at member Sue Ellen's home where we will conduct a quick meeting and then enjoy a delicious lunch together and connect.

Deb Burnham, GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club Leadership Team

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## **GFWC Outlook Club**

Our club met for the first meeting of the new year on October 4th. We took a look at the upcoming year and planned ways to help the local seniors, the food cupboard, tossed around fundraising ideas and ways to continue to support the GFWC causes. Our members also boxed up the donations that we received for our International Day of Service "Essentials Drive" that we conducted for the New Hope Shelter in Solon. We received paper towels, toilet paper and various hygiene items to support the women and children at the shelter. We are thankful that we have such a supportive community!

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC Outlook Club President

## GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club

The Westbrook Woman's Club began the year with a delightful gathering at DiMillo's Restaurant on September 2nd, where members enjoyed reconnecting and setting a positive tone for the year ahead. Our first business meeting was both meaningful and inspiring, featuring two representatives from Through These Doors, a safe haven for individuals affected by domestic violence. In support of their mission, our club has launched a new service project: creating welcome kits to be delivered to Through These Doors during their visit in January. President Vivian also shared the exciting news that we have been invited to attend the Gorham Woman's Club 100th anniversary celebration, and plans are underway to participate in this milestone event. The club also voted to once again take part in the Festival of Trees and to host a table at the upcoming Tips for Charity luncheon. October was a busy and engaging month. We welcomed a speaker from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, who gave a thoughtful presentation on domestic violence and its impact on older adults. October was also our Guest Day, and many members brought a friend to join in the day's activities. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, members wore pink in a show of support. The meeting concluded with snacks, a few lively games of bingo, and a 50/50 drawing - making it not only a full agenda, but a fun and memorable gathering for all.

Vivian Newton, GFWC Westbrook Woman's Club



## **GFWC MIOSAC Club**

GFWC/Miosac Club participated in the 'For the Girls Campaign' and took items to Fall Conference. Three members attended the conference, State President Suzanne Raymond, Anne Cress, Meetings Chairman and Delegates Fund Chairman Minnie McCormick.

Harmony Ingraham was scheduled to be speaker at the first October meeting but was ill and did not attend, We will reschedule her.

President Laurie Ducat spoke about the Veterans Thanksgiving Project She suggested giving old gently used blankets and it was approved. Members brought them to the next meeting. She has crocheted three and they will be used for door prizes . At the next meeting members will be making cards for the Veterans and also hear some of the clubs history. Laurie and some others will go to Bangor to assist with the Veterans Thanksgiving.

Minnie McCormick has made bags for children to carry books to and from the library. She presented the Thompson Free Library with 8 and sent 6 to the Appleton Library where her great grandchildren go.

As an annual event, members well be donating money to assist the Kiwanis with their annual Children's Christmas. Some members also adopt a child of their own.

Miosac's Secretary, Diane Leighton's husband David, was honored to be able to make the trip to Washington on the Honor Flight. He was accompanied by his grandson Caleb. They had a wonderful time.

I will wish you all an early Merry Christmas from the Miosac Club gals. Have a great winter. good luck and good health to all. See you in the spring!

Minnie McCormick, GFWC MIOSAC Club

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**\*\*\*CORRECTION TO 2025 - 2026 DIRECTORY\*\*\***

**Vicki Moshella's email - klausv9266@gmail.com**

## GFWC Waldoboro Woman's Club

We started our monthly meetings on Tuesday September 9, 2025, with a lovely buffet lunch. Member brought bras, panties, socks, and feminine products for I Support Girls to be taken to the Fall Conference. Officers received beautiful yellow or rust Mums from a local grower. At the October meeting club member discussed our goals for the year which is provide scholarships for graduating seniors. The scholarship committee recommended awarding ten scholarships this year. The final budget will be voted on at our November meeting. Our October speaker was Rev. Nancy Duncan pastor of the Broad Bay Congregational Church. Nancy shared her experiences serving the Waldoboro Church for the past 21 years. Her message was we each have something to share. We all learn from each other. We are all working together to serve the Waldoboro Community.

Mary Cope, Waldoboro Woman's Club





## **GFWC Gorham Woman's Club**

Hello hello hello from Gorham Woman's Club!

Well our club has been busy this fall on Sept 27th we sold 100 Purple Prince Holly's bulbs for Domestic violence awareness. We had a table at the Gorham farmers market that day. We also in Oct sponsored a table at the October Fest in Gorham we donated 70 sugar cookies for kids to decorate and eat! Our table was maned by USM students. Our banner was displayed for everyone to see. This table was a hit !

Our club has been working harder than Santa's elves finishing our 100 years quilt and getting ready for our 100 years Club Celebration on November 15th 1-4pm!!! Can't wait to see who can come and celebrate with our 9 member club ! We gained 1 gal but lost 1 gal as a member. At our Celebration we are collecting items for the Scarbrough Veterans Home. An email has gone out to all club presidents.

We would like to Thank the Pittsfield Art Club for their generous donation to our event!!!!  
We look forward to December in having our Holiday fun party with the Westbrook Club and hope to have the Limerick club be party of the Party !

Happy fall Y'all from the Gorham Club

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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