

Unity in Diversity
**How to Build
NEW GFWC Clubs
Part I**



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Introduction

GFWC clubs and clubwomen are the fabric that binds not only the Federation, but the communities in which they live and work. By *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, GFWC clubwomen transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With a grassroots approach that often thinks locally but impacts globally, GFWC, its clubs and members remain committed to serving as a force for global good, as it has done since its formation 128 years ago.

With over 80,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding.

GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence. GFWC was recognized on the floor of the United States Senate as "a gem among our midst" by then-Senator Joseph Biden (Del.) for our work in bringing hope to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse, and our early support for the Violence Against Women Act.

Introducing women to the personal rewards of membership and extending to communities the benefits of GFWC programs by establishing new GFWC clubs will guarantee that GFWC not only survives but also thrives. The future of GFWC is now and fulfilling the promise made in our mission statement - **"The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service"** is the shared responsibility of **ALL GFWC members**.

There is the opportunity to form new clubs around our country each day. It just takes planning and organization to go out and share this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the greatest women's volunteer organization in the world. Everyone should step up and be proactive in reaching out to potential members and offering them the privilege to become a GFWC clubwoman.

Let's get started!

1. **Make a Plan** -- Planning is vital to the success of starting a new club. Planning takes time and should involve club leaders and members. When starting a new club,

knowledge about all things GFWC is important but passion for what GFWC can do in a community is even more so. There are three types of clubs to consider:

- i. **Active Clubs**: Woman's Club, Junior Woman's Club, Juniorette Club, National Club, International Club
 - ii. **Associate Clubs**: National Organizations, International Affiliates
 - iii. **Special Interest Clubs**: Collegiate Clubs, Cyber Clubs, Single Issue Clubs, Workplace Clubs, Retirement Community Clubs
2. **Get Organized** - Organization focused on the actual task of gathering women together to organize a new club will be valuable for individuals and/or a New Club Formation Team. Members, clubs, districts, or states can use the techniques and principles offered here.
 3. **Set a Realistic and Attainable Goal** - Set a realistic, achievable goal and once that goal is met, set another one. Always keep reaching to do better, to be better and to be the best all women's volunteer organization!
 4. **Use Available GFWC Resources** - When focusing on starting a new club remember that resources that are just a phone call or email away. Reach out to GFWC officers at all levels - club, district, state, region, or national. They are all ready and willing to help! Remember, women can go to many places to volunteer their time so make GFWC their top pick. Starting new clubs is critical to the success and future of GFWC and the responsibility of all GFWC Clubwomen.

Making a Plan

A successful campaign to form a new GFWC club starts with a focused plan developed by leadership at each level (club, district and/or state). Officers at all levels of Federation need to promote the idea of forming new clubs at every opportunity. Electronic Newsletters or E-Blasts are a great way to get information out to the entire membership. District and state level meetings/conventions are the place to go to gather information on starting a new club.

When officers visit or speak at local/district/state meetings, they should always emphasize that the need to establish new clubs is a priority in GFWC. Members attending may know of potential members in a community without a club; names can be collected; and

personal phone calls can be made to prospects followed up by an email. Existing clubs can be a mentor to start a new club sharing their experiences and expertise.

All GFWC members must understand that they are a vital part of having a successful campaign to establish new clubs. Their commitment to starting new clubs does not stop when the new charter is signed but is ongoing until the club feels it is ready to soar. This process can take months and possibly years of mentoring and nurturing to ensure the club becomes an "established" club, with members who understand and appreciate the benefits of being a GFWC Clubwoman.

Forming new clubs is a shared responsibility and everyone has a vital part to play. Members may suggest a contact that could be friend or family member in a neighboring city that does not have a GFWC club. A meeting could be scheduled, and potential members could be invited through hand written invitations or through an E-vite service though posting information about the newly forming club on social media is the fastest way to reach a large audience and to peak interest.



Getting Organized

The best way to get organized is to have a **"New Club Formation Team"**. This can be done at the district or state level. The New Club Formation Team should have its hand on the pulse of their community identifying where new clubs are needed and who might be interested in joining a new GFWC club.

Each well-run New Club Formation Team has a Chairman. Because this is such a big job, the chairman would ideally be someone who does not currently hold another office in Federation. Her complete focus should be on building new GFWC clubs in her district or state.

Qualities of a New Club Formation Team Chairman should be:

- Organized and efficient
- Enthusiastic and motivated
- Knowledgeable and positive about *GFWC*
- Willing to travel throughout her district and/or state
- Comfortable speaking in public
- Able and willing to delegate responsibility

Qualities of New Club Formation Team Members:

- Enthusiastic and motivated
- Knowledgeable and positive about *GFWC*
- Familiar with clubs and members in her geographic area
- Comfortable speaking in public
- Willing to accept delegated responsibility

Many states have a Membership Chairman and a Membership New Club Formation Team in place. This New Club Formation Team typically knows where clubs do not exist and have access to members who can suggest likely prospects in communities without clubs. Because new club formation is a big job, it might be prudent to name a member of the New Club Formation Team as a chairman. The membership chairman has her hands full with existing membership responsibilities, but she should be included as an active participant in any new club formation. Her working knowledge of *GFWC* resources and information will be a valuable contribution to the task.

New Club Formation Team Responsibilities

Members of the New Club Formation Team should be prepared to get together on a regular basis. This Team should plan to meet either before or after the state convention, summer conferences or board meetings...any time the state is gathering is a wonderful opportunity! In addition, they could meet via tele- or video-conferencing or discuss matters via email or social media where everyone has a chance to respond. The New Club Formation Team can also contact *GFWC* Headquarters via email and receive a timely response. They could also have a private Face Book page where they can have a continuous discussion on membership ideas.

New Club Formation Team members must know state-specific membership information, including where and how to obtain state Membership Application forms, state membership eligibility requirements (if any) for clubs, when and how a chartering process is

accomplished and financial details relevant to new clubs (i.e. amount of state dues, amount of GFWC dues, when and how they are collected).

Technology has improved in leaps and bounds over the past ten years and there are more opportunities to find and disperse information quickly. The need to outsource the design of invitations, flyers, brochures and other printed materials is now as close as your computer. The graphics are fabulous today and will make homemade material look professional. Presentation is very important and GFWC, its state federations and clubs should be represented as the outstanding, prestigious organizations we know they are.

Setting a Realistic, Attainable Goal

The New Club Formation Team and all GFWC members must have a clear and honest appreciation of why forming new clubs is important. A state can commit to forming a new club in each district during a presidential administration. A district can commit to forming one new club during a presidential administration. A club can commit to mentor one new club during a presidential administration.

Goal setting shows a desire to succeed. Whatever the goal, it should be within the realm of the possible and not set so high as to be intimidating to your members.

Challenge clubs that contribute to HOBY to start a new Juniorette club. Juniorette clubs are a growing division of GFWC membership and should be thought of as incubators for future GFWC members. Most states require community service hours as a pre-requisite for high school graduation and bright, active young women are anxious to include community service activities on their college applications. Additionally, Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) leadership workshop participants are given information about GFWC and many are interested in becoming involved. These potential members are already motivated, and many have been the nucleus of new Juniorette clubs. All they need is a helping hand. In addition, with Juniorette clubs, GFWC is not only introduced to the school's teachers and administrators but also to the mothers of the girls joining GFWC. This is a great opportunity to form yet another club.

What's Next?

The commitment to form the new club has been made, the New Club Formation Team is assembled and ready, and the goal is set...now what?

- ✓ First take a good look at the district/stat. Use Google to get the most up to date area map and locate every community where a GFWC club exists. Mark it on the map with a colored marker. This is a great visual aide of where existing clubs are and where to focus time and energy. ***These are the Target Communities.***
- ✓ ***Use the New Club Formation Team*** to get the word out in the district and the state. The word is: "Does anyone know somebody in this target community?" Designate one member of the New Club Formation Team to be the "Collector of Names". She will develop and maintain a database of contact names/addresses/ cellphone numbers/email/ and the name of the member who suggested the contact. To avoid confusion and duplication it is best to have just one person do this job. This will prevent a potential member, whose name might have been suggested by several people, receiving multiple phone calls, text or email invitations.
- ✓ Team members can canvass their own club members. Use district newsletters and state magazines to inform the membership at large that there is interest in starting a club in any of the target towns and that names of acquaintances in those towns are needed. Additionally, this information should be added to a state's website as well as its Face Book page. Be sure to tell everyone the name of the person that is the "Collector of Names" to whom contact names can be referred.
- ✓ Another way for the New Club Formation Team to learn about the communities they are hoping to start a new club in is to read the local newspapers. Look for names of community leaders and activists. A person who is involved in the school board or conservation issues is someone who understands and appreciates the value of community organizations. Perhaps there is a burning issue in a community that a GFWC project would help solve. Pass along those names to the "Collector".
- ✓ Turn to State Federation files to see if a GFWC club once existed in any of the target communities. Situations change over time and a club that disbanded or dropped out of Federation in the past might have former members who are interested in becoming involved again. Names of former members should be passed along to the "Collector" and a Club Reunion could be planned to determine the interest of past members.
- ✓ After a reasonable period spent collecting names (2-3 months), the New Club Formation Team should select one target community where they will focus energy and plan their strategy.

- ❖ Which community is close (within 25 miles) to one that already has an existing *GFWC* club? Proximity to an existing club will make it easier to mentor/nurture a new club.
- ❖ Which community is centrally located so that it might pick up potential members from surrounding communities without clubs? A centrally located new club can serve as a training ground for members who eventually may establish clubs closer to home within their own communities.
- ❖ Which community had a *GFWC* club at one time? This could make organizing a new club much easier - one-time members have an institutional memory and experience that can be useful.
- ❖ Which community might benefit most from a *GFWC* club? A new suburb, populated by new arrivals, with no tradition of "community" is a good example of a community that could use a *GFWC* club.

These are just a few examples of the kinds of questions to ask when targeting a community. It is important to consider as many factors as possible relating to the choice of a target community that will contribute to the successful establishment of a new club.

THE PLAN

Before starting a full-scale campaign to establish a new club, the necessary and appropriate materials must be prepared and ready to distribute. This is where the New Club Formation Team working together comes into play. The following tasks can and should be delegated to the various members of the Team and/or members of a sponsoring club. Assign jobs that suit the talents, abilities and preferences of the members. Remember, every element and every task assigned is important to the success of organizing and nurturing a new club.

- 1) Develop a list of prospective club member names (as discussed above). The list should be organized by community and, if possible, should include the name of the person suggesting the contact.
- 2) Develop a mailing list of churches, synagogues, libraries and other places in the community where people with an interest in a community service organization might be found (day care centers, community centers, retirement communities).
- 3) Determine where the initial meeting will be held. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!** Look for a well-known, neutral, possibly prestigious location such as a historic home, museum, community center or library that convey the sense to prospective members that *GFWC* is an important, significant organization. Look for a site that will accommodate the number of people expected to attend, and more. Avoid sectarian locations for the initial meeting and don't meet in a huge hall where even a

good turnout will look small. Try to find a location equipped with AV capabilities. If refreshments are served, check for kitchen facilities and if there are any restrictions on food service (particularly relevant for historic sites). If using a public facility (such as a school), check on any fees or charges that might be incurred for janitorial help or other required staffing.

- 4) Develop/design a flyer or brochure announcing the initial meeting of interested women (see Appendix A). Design a flyer that invites prospective members to get involved in their community and meet new friends. Prospective members include all people with an interest in club involvement and volunteer service.
- 5) Prepare an invitation to the initial meeting to mail to names on the contact list (see Appendix B). Be sure to indicate on the invitation the name and telephone number of a contact person to call to RSVP and for further information. It's helpful to include a "Respond by Date", for planning purposes. Utilize an on-line E-vite site to send invitations via email and create an "event" for the initial meeting on social media. Of course, a personal phone call can also be extended to names on the list. Just be sure to let the contact know who shared her name because she thought she might be interested.
- 6) Order resources and materials from the **GFWC Market Place**:
 - GFWC History Timeline
 - GFWC List of Available Materials
 - i. Meeting Planning Guide
 - ii. GFWC Stylebook
 - iii. GFWC Club Leadership Responsibilities
 - iv. Know Your Organization Guide
 - Model Bylaws and Parliamentary Briefs
 - GFWC Community Service Program Annual Report (for the current year)Order state-specific resources and materials from state office or membership-chairman, including, but not limited to:
 - State Federation Tri-Fold
 - State Club Membership Application
 - State Program Information
- 7) Prepare a press release for local newspapers announcing the scheduled first meeting. (See Appendix C)
- 8) Utilize the "Free Community Message Boards" at your local TV, Radio, and Chamber of Commerce.
- 9) Set up an "Event" on Face Book and invite friends you think would be interested in attending a new club information meeting and encourage "sharing" of the event by all members of the team.
- 10) Contact a newspaper and local TV news show and invite a reporter to attend the first meeting and/or do a feature about GFWC. Be prepared to provide information about the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the state Federation. Whoever

makes the media contacts should be well versed in the activities and history of Federation and be ready to present a positive picture of the organization.

- 11) Invite a state officer and/or a member of the GFWC Board of Directors who may be living nearby to attend the initial meeting of prospective members. It is not necessary that she makes a formal presentation, but she may be called on to give a personal testimonial on the advantages of membership.
- 12) Contact a GFWC club in a nearby community to explore their interest in becoming involved with a potential new club. Involvement can be as simple as baking cookies for the first get together of prospective new club members to a commitment to mentor the new club for at least one year. The idea is to have the club agree to become a New Club Mentor.

A member of the New Club Formation Team should make an exploratory telephone call to the president of the club to inform her of the plan as it has been developed. Ideally, the phone call can be followed up by a New Club Formation Team member attending a club meeting to explain how they might help with a new club formation. Of course, members of the club may know of prospective members in the target community or have insights into the "culture" of the nearby community. Any way in which they can become involved will help the new club understand the benefits of connecting with a larger organization.

ORGANIZE

GETTING TOGETHER!

- ✓ Mail or email invitations to all the names on the contact list.
- ✓ Make personal phone calls to your contacts inviting them as your special guest.
 - It's helpful to have a core group of 5-6 prospective members who are seriously interested in learning more about forming a new club to attend the initial meeting. These probably are people whose names were suggested by current club members and with whom a New Club Formation Team member has spoken to personally. GFWC materials can be shared with them before the meeting and they can be thinking about a community need around which a club could be formed. Each should be encouraged to bring 2-3 friends.
- ✓ Distribute the flyers with information about the meeting throughout the community.

- ✓ Check in with your media contacts to confirm date and place of meeting.
- ✓ Once an approximate number of prospects planning to attend the initial meeting is known, make final arrangements for refreshments.
- ✓ Prepare a "Brag Board": an interesting, well-designed tabletop presentation that visually displays the kinds of activities in which local clubs, state federation and GFWC are involved. Keep it simple and uncluttered.
- ✓ Decide who will chair the first meeting: New Club Formation Team Member, state officer, mentoring club member, or an enthusiastic, interested prospective member. Depending on the level of interest and ability, one of the core group could be encouraged to chair the meeting. If this is the case, close cooperation and guidance from a New Club Formation Team member is essential.
- ✓ Make sure that all AV equipment is operating in order and situated where everyone can see and hear.

CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER

First impressions are critical. The first meeting with prospective new club members should be informal, fun and include an ice breaker. It is not necessary to provide so much information on GFWC, state Federation, district, etc. that attendees are intimidated, overwhelmed, or discouraged. GFWC was formed in 1890; its history, traditions, accomplishments and organization chart cannot be explained - or appreciated - in one evening.

- ❖ Don't forget the FUN! Have each prospective member fill out and turn in an "Interest Card" for a door prize. Information on the card (3" x 5" index card) should include the attendee's name, address and E-mail address, cellphone number, profession, and reason why she would like to become involved in a community service organization. Attendees should be encouraged to include names of additional referrals on the reverse side of the card.

Collect the cards and place them in an attractive bag or basket. At the end of the meeting, one card is drawn for a fabulous prize - how about a GFWC cookbook from one of your local clubs? Everyone has fun and the New Club Formation Team has the names and address of attendees and new referrals.

- ❖ Name tags for everyone, along with GFWC and state Federation information.

- ❖ Refreshments! Make use of a relaxed atmosphere and have the New Club Formation Team, visiting GFWC representatives and mentoring club members chat up as many prospective members as possible. Pleasant and positive personal interaction will go a long way in "selling" the idea of forming a new club. Refreshments at the beginning of the meeting will help put everyone at ease.
- ❖ GFWC meeting chairman introduces herself and GFWC members present. Introductory remarks can include:
 - "we're here this evening to introduce you to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization to which I have belonged for xx years" or
 - "we're here this evening to learn more about the General Federation of Women's Clubs and how we might become involved in our town" or
 - "we're here this evening because we all care about our [town library] and the General Federation of Women's Clubs has a way to help" or
 - "we're here this evening because we know our town needs a volunteer service organization like the General Federation of Women's Clubs."
- ❖ GFWC meeting chairman gives a brief overview of GFWC. (See Appendix D) It's not necessary at this stage to get too involved with detail or make the presentation so complex that attendees are scared away. Keep it simple!!
- ❖ Allow time for questions following the overview and encourage the attendees to look at the "Brag Board" display before the leave. Emphasize that a GFWC club can be as busy or as laid-back as the members want. Community service organizations have a well-deserved reputation for getting things done. But some might not have that much time. Reassure attendees that the club sets its own agenda.
- ❖ Chair suggests that attendees elect a temporary chairman and temporary secretary. The temporary secretary should take minutes.
- ❖ Determine by consensus the desire to go forward and form a GFWC club.
- ❖ Although the New Club Formation Team will take responsibility for arranging the next meeting, ask the attendees to suggest a time and place most convenient for

them. Give them examples of where clubs in other areas typically meet. Establish the time and place of next meeting. This will be the first step in assuming control of the club. Try to make it as painless as possible!

- ❖ GFWC meeting chairman suggests that everyone think about ways the group can become involved in the community. (This would be there first step toward developing a mission statement for their new club.)
- ❖ Ask for additional names to invite to the next meeting and encourage everyone planning to attend the next meeting to bring a friend.
- ❖ The meeting should take no more than 60 minutes.

Things to Consider

SOME REASONS WHY PEOPLE JOIN A GROUP:

To be helpful	To feel useful
To feel good about one's self	To gain recognition
To gain experience	To make new friends
To fill up idle (leisure) time	To utilize special talents
To serve a larger cause	To feel wanted
To make social/business contacts	To work with others
To learn new skills	To feel a part of something

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE GROUP:

- ✚ Leadership is appropriate to the needs of the group
- ✚ Members have confidence in their leader
- ✚ Goals are clear, shared by all, and are high but achievable
- ✚ Communication is open, frank and non-threatening
- ✚ Priorities are agreed upon and timetables are defined
- ✚ Members are encouraged to use, develop and share their talents and skills
- ✚ Decision-making is an open and understandable process
- ✚ Growth and welfare of all members are taken into consideration
- ✚ Everyone is involved and participates at their maximum level of comfort and ability



ARE YOU.....

Looking for connections to your community?



Interested in making new friends?

Ready to have some FUN?



The General Federation of
Women's Clubs
Has It All and More!
We'd Like to Tell YOU About It!

Monday: June 21, 7:00 p.m.
XYZ Town Community Center
Call Molly Member at 123-4567 for more info!



SAMPLE INVITATION

Dear Tammy Smith,

You are invited to join other caring and active women in (name of community) to learn about the General Federation of Women's Clubs. We are holding this meeting to consider establishing a new federated club in (name of community).

We would like very much to share with you **WHO** the members of GFWC are, **WHAT** we do and **WHY** women like you join. This much we can tell you now: the members of GFWC enrich their lives by putting their talents, time and experience to work on causes that benefit families and communities and have a lot of fun doing it!

We look forward to seeing you:

Date:

Time:

Place:

If you know of a friend or neighbor who would also like to be a part of a club involved in our community, we'd love for you to invite her to join us too!

Please RSVP to Sally Sue at 123-4567 by (date). We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Bea Member
ABC Woman's Club

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

<http://www.gfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Sample-GFWC-Press-Release-v.012.pdf>

The link above is to the approved GFWC Press Release Format. Information noted should be included in addition to the details of your meeting.

For Example:

Newly-Formed Woman's Club Seeks Volunteers for Community Service Projects

(Name of town, state and date) Organizers of the GFWC (insert new club name) announced today that they will be holding a "get acquainted" meeting on (insert date, and location). Anyone who can volunteer a few hours a month to a community service project should attend the meeting and are welcome to offer suggestions and ideas.

"Our new club is a member of the GFWC (insert state name) State Federation which in turn is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international organization with members in every state in the United States and more than a dozen countries," (name) said. She explained that while the (insert new club name) would devote its efforts primarily to (insert initial project club will work on), members eventually would be able to choose from a wide range of projects in the areas of arts, conservation, education, international outreach and public issues.

While there are many GFWC clubs in this area of the state (insert town name) has not had one since (insert date, if known, regarding last GFWC club in area) OR has never had a GFWC club. Several meetings were held over recent months to discuss forming a club to deal with the many needs in (insert town name) that are not being met by local agencies. Members felt that by having a GFWC club we could work for community improvement and really make a difference.

Through its volunteer membership, GFWC has worked since 1890 on a broad program of social reform including support of the first child labor law and equal pay for equal work, a youth suicide prevention program and a safety for older Americans programs, among many others. Club promote a life-long learning and offer women of all ages the opportunity to exchange ideas and form lasting friendships.

**BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO GFWC
(ALLOW APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES)**

The *General Federation of Women's Clubs* is one of the world's oldest and largest women's volunteer service organizations with a membership of over 80,000. GFWC has clubs locally in all 50 states and over a dozen countries. GFWC clubs are community-based which means they meet the needs of their community, whatever they may be. GFWC is rich in history since its beginning in 1890 and all archives are maintained at our Women History and Resource Center (WHRC) located at our GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Clubs are encouraged to maintain an accurate history of their own clubs and to share that information with the WHRC.

While local clubs develop their agendas to suit the specific needs of their community, GFWC can provide ideas, project guidelines and materials to help meet their community needs efficiently and effectively.

Presidents of the GFWC clubs receive a GFWC Clubwoman Magazine bi-monthly. The magazine is the "voice of Federation" and keeps our members informed about the activities of their officers, publicizes upcoming meetings and conventions and provides a perspective on our international organization. We know that most of our clubs focus on local needs. And, we believe that the needs in one community are often mirrored by another. The wisdom and experience gained by members in one place can be of invaluable help to members facing the same challenge somewhere else.

The magazine includes numerous examples of service programs and fundraising projects successfully undertaken by clubs around the country that can be copied or adapted to meet local needs. That's the benefit of being part of a network where information is shared. The ideas, insights, and inspiration available to all members can be used to the advantage of each member. (Be sure to hold up the magazine and pass it around the room)

In addition to program and project guidelines, GFWC has materials to help clubs organize and govern themselves in a way that will help them accomplish their goals. Information on parliamentary procedure, duties and responsibilities of club officers and members and model club bylaws are available to member clubs. These are important tools in solving problems common to all organized groups. Leadership skills learned and practiced in GFWC clubs transfer easily to the profession worlds of business, industry and government.

Since GFWC's founding in 1890, members have rallied as community-based advocates on issues of national importance. Results of Federation advocacy include child labor laws, women's suffrage, pure food and drug statutes, and guaranteed rights for people with disabilities. The source of GFWC's public policy initiatives are its Resolutions, which are adopted by the

membership at annual conventions and reflect the organization's consensus on issues of national and international importance.

GFWC is a nonpartisan organization and does not take a position on political parties or candidates. The **GFWC** Legislative and Public Policy Program strives to: educate club members about the political process, policy issues and pending legislation affecting women and children; engage members in the process of active citizenship and mobilize members to advocate for the Federation's policy priorities. This is accomplished through the **GFWC** Legislative Action Alerts:

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, **GFWC** often joins other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter. These letters, in addition to individual clubwomen contacting their members of Congress directly through the Legislative Action Center, result in a national network of grassroots advocates working together to improve the lives of club members, their communities, our nation, and the global community.

To promote the interests of the Federation and its members, **GFWC** provides additional information including bill summaries, congressional conference reports, and research findings germane to **GFWC** advocacy efforts.

We also encourage clubwomen to engage in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their professional staff. These meetings may be on Capitol Hill or in-district. To assist you in your legislative visits, **GFWC** provides talking points and leave-behinds for our core issues as well as for other timely matters.

Whether its program information, clarification of procedures, research assistance, public policy questions, membership advice, or public relations tips, your **GFWC** Staff members at Headquarters are available to assist all our members in whatever way possible. **GFWC's** professional staff secures the support of national organizations, associations, and corporations to make available monetary awards for individual members, clubs and state federations recognizing outstanding achievements in a variety of program areas. Grants to **GFWC** also enable program related guides and bulletins to be sent to all clubs.

Since 1890, **GFWC** has provided education, training, and resources for volunteers who are committed to individual growth and community improvement. Membership in a **GFWC** club affords women from all walks of life the opportunity to come together for fellowship and to help build, serve, improve and enjoy the community in which they live. We would love to have you join our Federation family!

(Add any personal remarks here that you would like. Also, feel free to add/delete or change the wording of any of the above recommended remarks.)