



# What's Hot

GFWC of Rhode Island

April - May 2011

## President Debbie Capuano



Thank you all for your dedication and hard work on the club reports. I enjoyed reading about all the amazing things that have been accomplished during this past year.

As we continue on our "Tour of Rhode Island" the next stop will be the GFWC of RI Annual State Meeting on



Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI. The meeting will feature a quilting workshop conducted under the guidance of Joan Prue. Joan, a GFWC member for 43 years and Quilter Extraordinaire since the 1980's will be bringing some of the more than 100 quilts she had made to share with us.



In addition, our special guest will be Mary Ellen Laister, GFWC President-elect. Mary Ellen will be sharing with us the history of GFWC.

She has successfully blended a 30-year career as an independent insurance agent and community service volunteer. Past president and active member of Tempe's GFWC Las Noches Woman's Club, she has held many leadership positions within the Federation, including GFWC Arizona state president when the 106th GFWC Annual International Convention was held in Phoenix. She served GFWC Arizona as Community Improvement Program chairman,

FREE Enterprise chairman for three terms, and Junior mentor for four terms. Mary Ellen also established the GFWC Arizona Past President's Tree Grove in Tempe.

First elected to the GFWC executive committee as treasurer and chairman of the budget and finance committee in 2002, Mary Ellen was subsequently elected recording secretary (2004-2006), second vice-president (2006-2008), and first vice-president (2008-2010). Her previously held positions on the GFWC Board of Directors include the international hostess, membership, and strategic planning committees.

Mary Ellen is a member of King of Glory Lutheran Church, former trustee of St. Luke's Health Initiative, past president of PROFIT Executive Club, and past president of The Governors. Born and raised in Beaver, Pennsylvania, Mary Ellen is a graduate of Walsh College (Fla.). She and her husband Mel live in Tempe and have one son and one granddaughter.

I look forward to seeing each of you at this exciting meeting.

I also look forward to visiting each of the clubs during this administration. I have already visited with the clubwomen from the GFWC Women's Club of South County, Inc., the GFWC Pawtucket Woman's Club and the GFWC Bristol County Women's Club. Club Presidents remember to use the invitation given to you at the first board meeting during this administration to earn a bead.



It is time for each club to consider a deserving club woman for the prestigious **Jennie Award**. The Jennie Award is awarded once per administration. The award is a medal of honor given to only 8 (one from each region) of the more than 100,000 volunteers who make up one of the world's oldest and largest women's volunteer service organizations. The Jennie Award is the only national award presented by GFWC that singles out and honors members for personal excellence. The Jennie Award honors those extraordinary clubwomen who perform their roles as volunteers within their clubs, elsewhere in the community, and as members of a family or extended family. The award is named in honor of GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly, who began the international organization more than 117 years ago.



The nomination process is two years long and includes detailed information about each woman's contributions to her club, community, and family.

- 6/15/11 club nomination to State President
- 8/15/11 State President to Region President
- 12/15/11 Region President to National Headquarters
- June 2012 International Convention - award to be presented

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your GFWC of Rhode Island President.

Yours in Federation Service,  
Debbie

## President-elect Madeline Perreault

### Outstanding Club Awards



After a year of community work on behalf of the clubs and several weeks of work writing the committee reports, it is only right that we take

time to recognize those who have completed remarkable projects and have gone "above and beyond" in the work of GFWC.

Once again at this year's Annual Meeting we will recognize clubs for a variety of programs and projects. These outstanding activities will be described by the Community Service Program Chairmen, the Standing Committee Chairmen, and the Special Project Chairmen (Signature and Advocates for Children). Attendees will have the opportunity to listen and perhaps seize the initiative to duplicate these projects in their own community. In order that these awards are justified and meaningful, the Executive Committee has created Award Recognition Criteria. These include:

#### Purpose

- To recognize an outstanding contribution by a club in providing services to others
- Insuring that awards are justified and meaningful

#### Citing Examples of Service

- Providing service beyond expectations ...
- Promotion of services through exemplary performance and recognition by the community...
- Share of public served ...
- Improving public understanding through information ...
- Creation of original work ...

#### Criteria of Recipient

- Currently a club in good standing
- Dues paid

- President or designee attends BOD & state meetings
- Club submitted timely reports per GFWC reporting guidelines

#### Number and Frequency of Award

- One award granted per category: i.e. program, committee and/or Special Project
- No club may be recognized if they do not meet the award criteria

Committee chairmen are to submit their selections to President-elect Madeline Perreault by Friday, **April 29, 2011.**

Presentation of the awards will be at the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2011. Let's be on hand to offer kudos to all those clubs whose hard work glorifies our entire organization.

## Vice-President Janet Trombetti

In researching GFWC's website for membership information to share with you, I came across this new posting that I think will be of interest to clubs looking to increase their membership or to retain the members they currently have enrolled.

### GFWC Membership Mysteries Revealed

GFWC Membership recruitment and retention can be very complex issues. The following insights can help you and your club unravel some of the membership mysteries. During the 2010 Region Conferences, GFWC Membership Committee members facilitated two interactive workshops and enthusiastic attendees were very forthcoming with their reasons for joining and staying in their GFWC club.



### Reasons for Joining a GFWC Club

#### How I Joined

- Married into a clubwoman family
- Daughter went to a youth leadership conference where clubwomen were working
- Had just retired; visited a club, heard their laughter and joined
- Retired to a new town and joined club at a cookie exchange
- Asked to do a program at a meeting
- Invited to lunch and recognized GFWC logo; had belonged to a Junior club and wanted to be a part of a GFWC club again
- Called the newspaper and asked for a contact to the club after reading an article
- Went to a fundraiser
- The number ONE answer: "I was asked!"
- Knew a member and was asked
- A group of ladies invited me to join after I had moved from another state and the members assured me: "We'll take care of you"
- Moved from another state and six days after moving into my house, I was asked to join a club
- New in town; asked to join by neighbor
- A good friend asked me to join a new group
- Postcard from local club invited me to join
- Moved to town and invited by my doctor's wife to join club
- Moved from big city to rural area and invited by club to join

#### Why I Joined

- To learn to do things I hadn't done before
- Leadership skills
- Meet friends
- Support group
- To work to mold public opinion for betterment of community
- Personal accomplishments

- Had things to offer and could make a difference
- Wanted adult friends and interactions
- Gives one a sense of purpose
- Gives one confidence
- Form friendships
- National organization that I can follow if I move or relocate
- Broadens horizons
- Empowerment
- Strength in numbers
- Sharing ideas
- Diversity of programs offered

While the answers seem as varied as our members, we can see that women do like to be asked and they are looking to be part of a group that fulfills a need. The needs ranged from wanting to help others and improving their communities to self improvement with leadership training, self awareness, and building a support group of like-minded women.

Now why do our members STAY? As you read the list, you will see they stay for many of the same reasons they joined in the first place.

#### Why I Stay

- I'm worth it!
- Camaraderie/Friendships
- Meeting others
- Second family
- Improve the community/Sense of community
- The projects!
- Help the less fortunate
- GFWC is a worthwhile organization
- Like the challenges of fundraising and membership
- Learning new skills
- Ability to serve
- Work to preserve the clubhouse
- Opportunity to move up to the state and beyond
- Meeting people in state and international
- All time favorite response: "Easier to live with... according to

husband...when I attend club meetings!"

As experienced members we tend to forget HOW and WHY we and our fellow club members joined. We get so caught up in the day-to-day running of the club that we sometimes forget the human side of our club.

As clubs prepare recruiting events for GFWC's seasonal recruitment campaigns, please remember that women like to

be asked and they want to hear how joining the club gives them the opportunity to reach their



own personal goals. We need to tap into those reasons and share with others the gift of GFWC Membership. Share with them what programs and projects the club offers; how the club improves the community; and the benefits of belonging to an international organization. Facts and figures are all well and good, but don't overlook the personal benefits that we have shared here.

Plan a club program around: "Why did you join? Why do you stay?; Tell us your stories." Use the findings to plan the club's recruitment AND retention

campaigns.

Recruitment is essential but do not overlook the very important need to retain members. CONTENT and HAPPY members are the club's BEST recruiters. Members will decide to stay with their clubs only if they feel that their time is being used effectively to improve communities and if they feel a sense of ownership and pride.

Clubs need to place members first and meet members' expectations. Members need to feel that they play a role in the decisions of the club and that their opinions count. The best way to accomplish this is to ask for their input. There are many ways to determine what the members in your club are thinking: suggestion boxes, informal interviews, surveys, and even by just striking up a conversation with a member. Club leaders should be willing to ask for input on meeting times, what kind of programs and projects are enjoyable or have no appeal, and other suggestions. Asking for and implementing the suggestions of the members keeps the club happy, strong, and growing. The GFWC Membership Advancement Guide is a wonderful resource with samples and examples. There is no need to reinvent the wheel! The advancement guide can be found online at [www.GFWC.org/ClubManual](http://www.GFWC.org/ClubManual).

### Dates to Remember

April 24	Federation Day
April 29	Award Nominees due to President-elect
April 30	Day of Service
May 21	GFWC of RI Annual Meeting
June 18-20	120th GFWC International Convention, Milwaukee WI
July 13	GFWC WC of South County Author Luncheon
July 28	GFWC of RI Board Meeting
August 20	Leadership Training
Sept. 23-25	GFWC New England Region

Each club may seem unique BUT really we are all women looking to make a positive difference in our communities and we want to leave a legacy so new members can stand on the shoulders of the seasoned members and share a vision for the future of GFWC. SHARE GFWC Membership with your neighbors, family, and friends so they too have the same opportunities that we have had the privilege to experience.

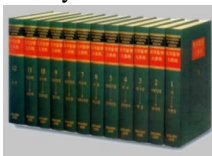
## Mystery Solved!

### Conservation Roberta Bianco

Did any clubs recognize Earth Day on April 22? Did you do something as simple as reviewing ways to conserve energy or as ambitious as helping to clean up the yard at a shelter or a public area in your community? Remember that it is not only on Earth Day that you can do these things. It is getting to be planting time. Why not contact a local shelter (homeless or DV) to see if your club can help get the grounds ready for planting? The Holly Charette House – one of our Day of Service projects – is planning a community garden. You can contact them to see what vegetable plants they need through Dan Navedo, Director of Operations of Operation Standdown RI, at (800) 861-VETS or his direct office number (401) 383- 4730.



Are you all reading the Sarah Kite pieces in the Saturday Providence Journal? In a fairly timely one I found out the answer to a problem I've had for a while. Recently I tripped over a set of encyclopedias that I have boxed up and stored in my basement. This reminded me that I should research how to recycle them (or at least



move them). Then, I saw that someone else had written to Sarah about this very problem. Reading Tree will accept the encyclopedias and recycle them if they are unable to find a home for them overseas. You can find a Reading Tree container near you by going to [www.readingtree.org](http://www.readingtree.org). Click on GetInvolved-Donatebooks.

Do you have questions as to what can be put into your community's recycle bins? Since items collected vary by city/town, you should contact your Public Works Department. Also, thanks again to Sarah Kite's column, I learned that hundreds of items are listed on RIRRC's website under A-Z Recyclopedia.

Finally we arrive at my pet project – Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe. If we all take part in this project, we can make a difference. They grind up every part of the shoe. From only 2500 pairs of shoes they can make an outdoor basketball court, an indoor tennis court, a playground and an indoor synthetic basketball court. It is easy to collect old sneakers (although storing them can be tricky) from club members and their friends and families, various gyms, and with school nearing an end, local high schools. At the board meeting, I offered to have small amounts dropped off to me. It gives me an excuse to shop at Wrentham, but you will have to deliver large donations yourself. For more information go to [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com).



## Mugs for Meetings

As a conservation measure, GFWC of RI is once again instituting our Mugs for Meetings Campaign which originated in 1996 by the RI Juniors. Rather than using disposable paper cups, clubwomen

are encouraged to bring their own mug to meetings to use. To help in this effort we have purchased white mugs with the GFWC Emblem in black. The mugs are \$1.82 per mug and make great speaker or new member gifts. Clubs can purchase them from Roberta Bianco. For new orders clubs must send a check to Carolyn Traxler and the number of mugs ordered to Roberta.



### Homelife Susan Porth

## May is Older Americans Month

OAM 2011



When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing, however. In April of 1963, President John F. Kennedy's meeting with the National Council of Senior Citizens served as a prelude to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month."

Thanks to President Jimmy Carter's 1980 designation, what was once called Senior Citizens Month, is now called "Older Americans Month," and has become a tradition.

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since JFK has issued a formal proclamation during or

before the month of May asking that the entire nation to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs and other such activities.

Go to [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov) to find grants for funding resources to the Aging Network.

## International Outreach Ruth Bennett

### Plan USA

**PlanUSA's goal: providing a safe place for children to live and grow to their full potential.** Plan works with communities and collaborates with partners at the national, regional, and international levels to fight violence against children and promise a future worthy of our children's potential.



Violence is a global problem. TV dramas have recently had stories about human trafficking. But sometimes we don't realize that it also includes children.

- 40,000,000 children are abused each year
- 150,000,000 girls and 73,000,000 boys experience sexual violence
- 1,800,000 children are involved in prostitution and pornography
- 1,200,000 children are victims of trafficking

On Plan's website they are working to protect children in Haiti, Nepal, and Niger. Plan fights to end child trafficking, particularly of these vulnerable children, including orphans, children affected by conflict, disabled children, and children affected by [HIV and AIDS](#), by using the most effective means available. Plan's efforts against trafficking include increasing community awareness of

the dangers of trafficking, rescuing victims, ensuring rehabilitation and healthcare, and providing education and life skills training.

Think about making a donation to fight child trafficking

## Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children Roberta Bianco

Although only two clubs reported in the Advocates for Children category, I know that every club has done many projects that help the children of their communities. Have you worked with shelters on behalf of the children they serve? Have you made book collections or donated diapers and underwear to Project Undercover?



These are just a few examples. While each of these can be reported in another area, they are all also reportable in Advocates for Children.

If your club has one children's issue among many in a Community Service Program, and one in another, why not gather all your children's programs and report them under Advocates for Children? If each club did this, RI could make a huge impression nationally. We do so many things for our children, let's take some credit for them.

Another suggestion is contacting Kate Begin at Prevent Child Abuse RI and inviting her to speak to your club on ways to get involved. Consider a pinwheel garden at a public school or other public area of your town or city. Kate can provide all the guidance you will need.

Let's all work even harder the rest of this club year and into the next to advocate for RI's smallest citizens and the hope for the future – our children!

## Day of Service Roberta Bianco & Betty Challgren

The Holly Charette House (HCH) will be spruced up with curtains and container gardens on the Day of Service. The Cranston club has measured windows for rods and curtains. They will be putting up the rods before the Day of Service.

Through a generous \$200 donation from the Pawtucket club, and shopping by the Warwick club, the house will have most of its needed curtains. We will concentrate on bedrooms for the present time. Warwick will contribute pots, soil and plants for the container gardens. Any other contributions of flowers will be greatly appreciated.



Of course hanging the curtains means ironing them (we have a couple of volunteers for this - thankfully). There is a community garden planned for HCH, and since it is too soon for that kind of planting, we will be accepting plants - tomato, squash etc. at a later date.

Our second site is Providence In-town Churches Association (PICA). We are seeking small household appliances and other supplies which can be dropped off on the Day of Service. Alexandra Hahn is willing to collect from you (within reason - my words, not hers).

Let's all work to make this a successful day.



**Providence Intown Churches Association**



**GFWC DAY OF SERVICE**

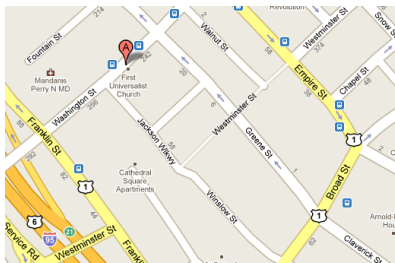
Saturday, April 30, 2011

*Help the homeless get off the streets.*

*PICA helps their clients in getting a new start in a new home. These formerly homeless individuals and families have nothing to start a household with.*

Please consider donating new, or gently used household items:

- Kitchen-wares – Dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware, napkins, tablecloths, etc.
- Small appliances – Blenders, toasters, microwaves, toaster ovens, etc.
- Bathroom – Towels, bath mats, washcloths, etc.
- Bedroom – Sheets, pillows & cases, blankets, etc.
- Household goods – Radios, mops, brooms, vacuums, TVs, etc.



Bring your items to the First Universalist Church, 250 Washington St., Providence, RI between 10 AM – 4 PM. There is limited parking behind the church and on Greene Street (one-way – start at Broad St.). Or, have your items picked up – see below.

*For more information, or to have your items picked up, please contact Alexandra Hahn Days at 457-3691; Eves at 521-1482*

**GFWC Bristol County WC  
Sandy Pannone, President**

Our speaker at the March Meeting was Kate Begin, Executive Director for Prevent Child Abuse RI. She talked about the work of PCARI and how to get involved. We presented her with a check for \$200 from the sale of jewelry for her at the Mid-winter meeting and our club's February meeting.



In April we had a "Springtime Brunch" while we heard from two leaders of the Barrington Girls Scouts about Project Undercover. Club members donated diapers to the cause.



**GFWC Cranston Community WC  
Ethel Dellasandro, President**

Our speaker for our February meeting was Kate Begin, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse RI. She spoke on their National Campaign Project 'Pinwheels for Prevention'. Prevent Child Abuse RI has another event that we were asked to assist them with. We will be volunteering at our local YMCA's to bring members and their children Healthy Kids Day celebrations! Our members will set up tables and display brochures and information from Prevent Child Abuse RI to distribute to members and their children attending their local YMCA's throughout the day.



In March we celebrated Women's History Day with a member who had visited the GFWC Headquarters and the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center and brought them to life. Her tour included so many surprises and interesting facts and our members were told about what it was like to walk down corridors with frames of state flowers all over the walls. There was also states and clubs' history, beautiful paintings, beautiful pieces of furniture and articles that State Federations had donated to GFWC Headquarters. Some of our members hope to visit Headquarters to experience just how great GFWC Headquarters and the WHRC are.

At our April Meeting we will be celebrating our annual International Night with delicious food along with their recipes. Members bring artifacts, clothing, pictures, etc. representing the countries they chose. This year Poland, England, Italy, Holland, Armenia, India, Israel and China are some of the countries they will be representing.

We are preparing for Our Day of Service during Federation Week. Members donated clothing to the CCAP of Cranston on Doric Avenue, Cranston last month. These donations will be given to the homeless. Our members will be going to the State House during Federation Week and will attend the Senate Session. Senator Hannah Gallo will present GFWC Cranston Community Women's Club with a Proclamation, again this year.

In May each year our members



visit the residents at SStarbirth and bring gifts to the Mother's and their children the Friday preceding Mother's Day. The Mother's and their children reside there for 13 months and are taught just how to manage their lives and budgets, shopping and preparing food for the families and live on their own.

Our members stay for a short time and talk and they share some of their stories and dreams of what they hope to accomplish in the future. We also support their efforts throughout the year.

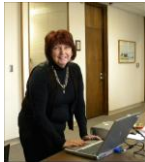
In June we will assist the ALS of RI with their Night of Hope. We have been doing for at least 16 yrs. We help them with their Silent Auction and handle registration for the event.

Our members worked in the Historical Cemetery that we adopted several years ago, by removing weeds and cutting grass.

We are working on the Community Improvement Program Award Project at the Holly Charette House throughout the year. We certainly have a lot of things to accomplish and we will.

### **GFWC Pawtucket WC** **Ruth Bennett, President**

At the March meeting of the Pawtucket Club, Janet Trombetti, Vice President of GFWC of RI and Membership Chairman spoke about the different things that the club could do to recruit new members. She also spoke about Plan USA.



The March Collection was diapers and underwear for Project Undercover. The items were delivered to the East Providence Girl Scout Troop to be taken to a Providence Bruins game on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

At the April meeting, the Club was entertained with music by Wayne Patenaude and Al Sims. Also at this meeting a collection of personal items was received for homeless women at Emmanuel House on Public Street in Providence.



The Club is looking forward to our Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Wannamoisett Country Club in Rumford, RI. Also in May the Pawtucket Club is the host club for the Annual Meeting of GFWC of RI to be held at The Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket, RI.

### **GFWC Wampanoag WC** **Paula Braman-Duarte, President**

Wampanoag is still on hiatus as many members are away during these months. Some of the club will be attending Trinity's Steel Magnolias next week and that will be a nice way to reconnect with old friends. In May we will have our annual dinner and investiture of officers. Of course we will also be looking forward to the state meeting and touring the Museum of Work and Culture. Our membership hopes to support the Day of Service endeavors with Holly Charette House as well as participate in the fundraiser mug sales.

### **GFWC Warwick WC** **Janet Trombetti, President**

The last two months have been very productive for the Warwick club. In February we held a shower for the Friends of Warwick animals. Two of the women from the group came to receive the gifts. They opened each one, holding it for all to see. Of course, there were the mandatory "Ohs" and "Ahs" as the gifts were shown. We learned a little about the group's upcoming events, including an open house for the newly reopened shelter which had been badly damaged in last year's flood.



In March we donated diapers for Project Undercover – marking the 18th year that Warwick has been involved. Abby McQuade, the executive director of Project Undercover, spoke to the group. We donated 709 diapers at that meeting. We will follow up with this project over the last two months of meetings by collecting socks and underwear in April and May, along with more diapers, their biggest need. In May, a local Curves will also help us by letting us hold a month long donation there for Project Undercover.

Following Abby, Madeline Perreault presented a Women's history Month program. This year we learned all about women Nobel Prize winners. She always has a little "quiz" and we do fairly well guessing the right answers.

Of course, the Reuse-a-Shoe drive goes on. We are currently collecting in two ladies gyms. Three large bags are ready to go to Nike.

Finally, we are preparing for Day of Service at Holly Charette House and for our Annual Meeting in May to mark the end of another great year of the GFWC Warwick Women's Club.

### **GFWC WC of South County** **Carol Sugerman, President**

Our March meeting was held in the evening this month. This was certainly a test which we scheduled on the belief that the timing of the meeting might make attendance easier for our employed members. It was a surprise to find that an impressive majority of the total membership were enthusiastic and attendance was significant.

We have also added a meeting in June to our schedule and plan to use this meeting to review planning for the Book and Author Lecture (scheduled for July 13) and to discuss our experiences this year as we changed our organizational

structure. We will also take the opportunity to develop goals for next year and include the option of scheduling more evening meetings next year.

## Meetings

**Mary D. Irons**

GFWC of RI Annual Meeting  
May 21, 2011  
Museum of Work & Culture  
Woonsocket, RI  
Special Guest  
Mary Ellen Laister  
GFWC President-elect

## 2011 ServeRI VolunCheers

Congratulations to Roberta Bianco & Ora Wry, GFWC of RI's 2011 ServeRI Nominees for Volunteer of the Year. Here are the recommendations that were submitted by their clubs.

### **Roberta Bianco**

As a long-time contributor to GFWC Warwick Women's Club, Roberta Bianco has served in a variety of capacities. Currently she serves as Second Vice President, in charge of programs. In this capacity Roberta is responsible for the theme of each monthly meeting. This entails selecting the speaker and or project to be completed. Often the speakers are individuals representing the Club's community partnerships with other non-profits such as the Girl Scouts of RI, the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, and the House of Hope. As a result of Roberta's efforts, WWC has collected underwear for under privileged children, landscaped a domestic violence shelter and donated sewing equipment and materials along with purchasing hand-made gift bags and purses from a women's sewing collective.

In her position as Project co-chair, Roberta has inspired Club women to make greeting cards for Veterans, collect household goods for transitional housing, attend a

Pet Shower for the Warwick Animal Shelter, and provide creative hands-on craft projects for a local Boys & Girls Club.

As a school mentor through the RI Mentoring Partnership she has promoted the Club's participation as student mentors, fund raising supporters and hostesses for Mentoring advocacy projects.

Roberta is one of the co-founders and monthly discussion leaders of the WWC's project with the Pilgrim Senior Center – a Women's Book Club that provides intellectual stimulation and camaraderie with local seniors.

On the state level, Roberta serves as the chairman of the GFWC RI Junior Special Project: Advocates for Children. This job involves promoting activities such as literacy initiatives, nutrition programs, and curbing homelessness. Five of the nine Clubs in RI participate in these activities through Roberta's efforts.

Creative and tireless, Roberta's big heart stimulates her to take on many projects that address the needs of our community. But her good natured cajoling stimulates others to "get on the band wagon" and join her in helping those who need assistance. A recent example is evidenced by her explanation of the needs of women veterans – the sometimes forgotten soldiers of America. A new facility, providing a home for homeless female veterans, is being developed in RI. Roberta has drafted WWC to be in on the ground floor and help decorate the home. When Roberta hears that someone or some agency is in need of help,

she is first to volunteer but more importantly she is the motivating force to get others to join in her efforts – promoting "many hands make light the work". What more can you ask of a women's club member?

### **Ora Wry**

We, of the Women's Club of South County, enter the name of our member, Ora Wry, for consideration as a spectacular volunteer. While all the women who are members of GFWC are generous as volunteers with their time and energy, Ora goes much beyond the usual.

Let us tell you a story of our club. It became obvious last year that we would not be able to come up with a slate of officers for the next cycle of 2010-2012. In 2009, Ora was Vice President and in that winter our President found it necessary to leave the state for an extended period of time. Ora stepped into the role of administrative head. She chaired the membership and board meetings and oversaw committee work which included the large fund raising event we hold in July. In addition, when the nominating committee came back empty, Ora began a Task Force to review where we stood and come up with a plan of reorganization. She set up the meetings, developed agendas, recruited mentors, wrote position papers and made sure that all members of the committee were



consistently informed.  
Without her work and willingness to take on such extensive responsibility our club could well have gone out of existence.

It is not overly dramatic to say that we owe our Federation Life to her willingness to take on such an intense project.

In addition, Ora is active as a volunteer in our local homeless

shelter where she has been known to paint the walls, hang the pictures as well as help raise the monies needed. She is also a volunteer at the center which provides food, clothing and other necessities for those in need. Ora worked with a local elementary school teacher to raise funds for an outdoor classroom which overlooks the town river. She went on field trips with the students and advocated for

their needs so that they could monitor the purity of the river.

You can see from the above that Ora is a volunteer extraordinaire who always gives from her heart both to the Women's Club and the community in general.

## 2011-2012 GFWC of RI Calendar

### GFWC of RI Board of Directors Meetings

(Please note the new dates)

Thursday, July 28, 2011, 7-9 PM, Pawtucket Independence Square  
Thursday, October 1, 2011, 7-9 PM, South County Independence Square  
Saturday, January 7, 2012, 9-11 AM, EBC Center  
Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7 - 9 PM, Pawtucket Independence Square

### GFWC of RI State Meetings

Fall State Meeting Saturday, October 15, 2011  
Host Club: GFWC Bristol County Women's Club  
Program: Home Life

Mid-Winter State Meeting Saturday, 1/28/12 (new date)  
Host Club: GFWC Cranston Women's Club  
Program: Conservation

Annual State Meeting Saturday May 19, 2012  
Host Club: GFWC Women's Club of South County, Inc.  
Program: Education

GFWC Leadership Training  
August 20, 2011, EBC Center

## 2010-2012 GFWC of RI Officers and Chairmen

### OFFICERS

President	Debra Capuano	885-0077	dacapuano@cox.net
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Secretary	Ruth Bennett	724-7732	rbennett41@cox.net
Treasurer	Carolyn Traxler	783-5088	<a href="mailto:cctraxler@verizon.net">cctraxler@verizon.net</a>

↑ (note new e-mail)

### CHAIRMEN

Arts	Sandra Pannone	245-1694	MISSBARR98@aol.com
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## 2010 -2011 GFWC of RI Club Presidents

Bristol County	Sandra Pannone	245-1694	MISSBARR98@aol.com
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Past Presidents	Roberta Bianco	738-2791	robertabianco@cox.net
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