



What's Hot

GFWC of Rhode Island

January-February 2012

President
Debbie Capuano



Happy New Year to each of you.

The GFWC of RI mid winter state meeting will be held on Saturday February 4th at Rhode Island Resource Recovery. We are honored to have Carlene Garner, GFWC International President and Kathy White, GFWC NER President joining us at our meeting. There is also a special raffle planned. A Natalie glass handbag by Block Crystal will be the raffle prize.



A huge THANK YOU to all those Cranston Clubwomen who are hard at work to make our meeting a success.

I look forward to continuing my visits with each of the clubs during this coming year, I have already visited with many clubs, so Club Presidents remember to invite me and earn a bead.

I look forward to announcing the GFWC LEADS (Leadership, Education and Development Seminar) candidate at the GFWC of RI mid-winter meeting.

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

Yours in Federation Service,

Debbie

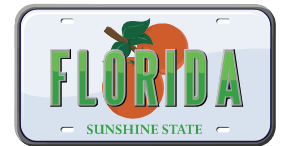
President-elect
Madeline Perreault

From the keyboard of the President-elect:

Travel Broadens Your Horizons

The world is a much smaller place, connected by jet and telecommunications, than geography would indicate. Instant communication – texting and tweeting – allows us to know what everyone is doing. But physical travel is still the best way to experience and really get to know people and places.

As you know your President and President-elect have succumbed to the “snow bird” phenomena and are spending some time in



Florida this winter. As temporary residents and dedicated Clubwomen, we have done some research on Florida Federation activities. As replication is a sincere form of flattery, here are some interesting activities and programs occurring in Florida that might peak your interest and foster a “new” idea within your club.

First off a few facts: the Florida federation is huge (especially compared to Rhode Island) – 177 general clubs, 31 junior clubs and 19 juniorettes – organized into 14 districts. Each district has a president who holds district meetings. The state federation is organized similarly to Rhode Island – Board of Directors and seasonal state meetings. The state federation was organized in 1895 (not unlike RI) and created a state office in Lakeland, Florida in 1990. With a large population of retired individuals you would expect many “senior” members but with the large number of junior and juniorette clubs, the median age of Florida clubwomen is much lower than Rhode Island. Maybe a clue as to how we should focus our membership drives?

Organized into the six Community Service Programs, Florida clubwomen engage in many of the same activities Rhode Island women do. But here are some events that you might find interesting:

- Conservation: November 15th is Recycle Day – encouraging community participation in “greening up their communities”. Individual clubs organize events – clean-ups, informational lectures, etc that promote recycling. Their focus is expressed in their motto – “Remember: One day to educate. One day to motivate. One day to make recycling bigger and better 365 days a year. Get Involved!”
- Home Life: Florida Federation Fitness Contest – local clubs organize their members (and relatives and friends) around physical activity - holding an initial weigh-in and setting up a weekly schedule of future weigh-ins (everyone weigh-in on the same scale). Whether they purchase a club scale or you use the one at Publix, consistency is the key. Appoint someone to keep a log of the weigh-ins. Hold support meetings at least once a month. You can include speakers on how to eat a healthy diet, you can share recipes, or you can just have a gab session. You may also want to form walking or exercise groups (make sure your participants have been medically cleared for exercise). You can also access the website of one of our GFWC partners, the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (www.nhlbi.nih.gov) for information on a heart healthy diet and exercise. The state chairman sends month suggestions and support through email contact. State awards are given in this category.
- Public Issues: Buy American Challenge. The Public Issues Department challenges members to “Buy American,” during November. Check the labels on clothes, food, and every item BEFORE you buy it. A discussion of this project and workshop was held at Fall Board. Follow ups held at club meetings – discussion held on international trade and women’s role in clothing production world-wide. Awareness of the interdependence of countries in the world economy.

- Cyber Club: Florida maintains an on-line cyber club – linking individuals and their activities – to federation functions; especially attractive to young professionals who are unable to attend meetings but want to better their communities.

Your officers hope to attend some local club meetings this month – the Naples Woman’s Club and GFWC Naples Junior Woman’s Club and will report to you our further findings. True to the Rhode Island experience everywhere, we’ve met just as many transplant Rhode Islanders (and from other states and Canada) as we have Floridians!

See you at the state meeting in February!

Vice President
Janet Trombetti

Attention all Club Presidents

It’s that time again...time to create your club’s annual reports for calendar year 2011. Reports are due to GFWC headquarters, state chairmen and President Deb Capuano by February 15th and remember to keep a copy for your records. If Membership reports are received after Feb. 15th they will not be included in the state report to GFWC headquarters and will not be eligible for state awards.

Also, if you installed any new members in 2011, please send their names to me along with the member’s name who solicited them. Your members may be eligible for the new star recruitment pins.

I look forward to hearing from all RI club presidents.

Arts
Doris Landry



AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT

GFWC is continuing its effort to create the world’s largest collaborative piece of indoor artwork

which will measure 120 feet long, 5 stories high, and nearly 10 feet deep at its completion. If you have any old watches, please consider donating them. The mural represents the thousands of volunteer hours GFWC members have given and continue to give. Members are asked to donate \$1.00 with each watch. At the State meeting in February, I will have the forms to be filled in by each club, and I will collect the watches and money at any meeting and send them in. Thank you for your participation.

Conservation

Roberta Bianco

This article is an example of conservation since most of the information comes from the City of Warwick's recycling calendar for 2011. I scanned it for info before recycling it. Some are interesting facts and some good tips that everyone can use. Since there is so much in the calendar, I will do the first six months now and the rest in the next issue.

January: Each year Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups. Even 500 years from now, that cup you drank from today will still be sitting in a landfill! So why not make your coffee or tea at home and carry it to work in a reusable mug. (And you can also have a GFWC mug on hand to use at work as well as taking it to club meetings.)



February: Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour and throw most of them away. Why not invest in a filtered pitcher?

March: 500,000 trees are cut down to produce each week's Sunday paper. How can you help? Why not subscribe to an on-line newspaper? For those of us who like that paper in hand, remember to recycle your newspaper.

April: A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of fresh water. We can help stop this by making sure that



our city or town enforces regulations on proper disposal.

Remember, Earth Day is in April. Contact your city or town about how your club can sponsor an Earth Day clean-up.

May: This may be the most astonishing fact of all.

Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. How can you help? Recycle CLEAN aluminum foil in your blue bin and buy recycled aluminum foil.



June: More than 20 million Hershey Kisses are wrapped each day using 133 square miles of tinfoil. Not many realize that all that foil can be recycled. However, unless you eat a huge amount of candy at one time, you'll have to think of a clever way to collect the foil to recycle.

Finally, keep on recycling those sneakers. If you have not already done so, buy a GFWC mug to use at your club meetings. We have plenty more at the bargain price of \$2 each.



Education

Bev Prestage

The following are three areas of concentration suggested by GFWC that I thought might be of interest to GFWCRI Clubs for the 2012 year.

1. Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)
Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society open to GFWC federated club members. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement.

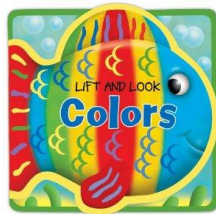
Suggestions for clubs:

- Encourage members to join an ESO chapter or start one in your own club. Contact GFWC's Program Department for details.

- Check out GFWC's featured Book of the Month and take part in discussions.
 - Start a book club, selecting books of interest to women and meet monthly for discussions.
 - Start a book exchange program at club meetings.
2. Support Libraries by honoring library personnel and have club events at your local library.

Suggestions for clubs:

- Promote local authors by sponsoring a book-signing event on National Author's Day, November 1 which was established by GFWC in 1929.
 - Develop a "Books for Babies Program". Provide a baby book and information to Moms, to help their babies develop an early love for books. Books for Babies will award certificates to each club that participates.
 - Collect books for shut-ins and the elderly in nursing homes.
 - Sponsor a library summer reading program for children and discuss the books they have read.
 - Celebrate National Friends of the Library Week in October, National Library Week in April, and National Children's Book Week in November.
3. Provide scholarship information to members of the community regarding the following opportunities:
- AARP Foundation will award scholarships for eligible women over 40 years old.
 - Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund has been created especially for women.



The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

Please email all reports by February 15, 2012 to bevprestage@gmail.com

Home Life Susan Porth

It is that time of year again and I am sure you will be hearing this from everyone... Don't forget to report. I expect a report or a 'No report' from all the clubs. I will follow up with each club if I haven't heard from you.

February is....

- American Heart Month
- America Saves Week
- Women's Heart Week, first week of the month
- February 3, 2012 National Wear Red Day



International Outreach Ruth Bennett

During the winter while spending more time indoors, as you are reading for pleasure, it is a wonderful opportunity to support Heifer



International's WILD program which gives millions of women the chance to support themselves and their families through the provision of livestock and specialized training. Our contribution to this project will empower women all over the world and help transform their lives.

During January and February keep a record of what you read. Make a donation of 5 cents for each newspaper, 10 cents for each magazine, and 25 cents for each book you read. Checks made out to Heifer International are tax deductible. Please let me know what amount you have sent, or send the donation to me and I'll send them out as a state project.

Day of Service Roberta Bianco

At the Board of Directors meeting in January, the topic of Day of Service (DOS) was discussed. In an earlier packet to club presidents, suggestions for projects and a letter requesting the clubs to notify me of their project for the day was sent: however, no clubs actually sent specific projects that they

were planning. Through discussion at the board meeting, it was noted that several were planning to work in conjunction with Prevent Child Abuse RI (PCARI) and Pinwheel for Prevention Gardens.

At a meeting of the GFWC Rhode Island Ex Club, Jane McGrane, Executive Director of Girl Scouts RI, was the speaker. This set several of us to thinking that Girl Scouts and GFWC should reestablish their relationship. This partnership will open up great opportunities and also afford great PR for GFWC of RI.

On January 20, I met with Jean McGrane, CEO of Girls Scouts of RI (GSRI), Laurie Pensa, who I believe is in charge of programs at GSRI, and Kate Begin, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse RI (PCARI). The meeting was to discuss a collaborative effort between our respective groups. There were huge smiles all around as it became more and more evident what a great match GFWC, PCARI and GSRI are. In this the 100th year of Girl Scouts they are celebrating "The Year of the Girl."



So many opportunities were discussed and Kate is working up a Webinar for all interested. There will be details in a few weeks.

This is a great opportunity for all three groups. GFWC will be introduced to women involved in GSRI and that could mean new members. Both agencies will provide PR for events in which we are involved culminating in the Day of Service. A great big THANK YOU goes out to Ann Hogan who invited Jean to speak at a GFWC RI Ex Club meeting.

Since clubs have been encouraged to work on a project that helps the individual club's community on the DOS, some may already have made arrangements to do something different. Please let me know what they are.

April 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

GFWC Bristol County Women's Club Sandra Pannone, President

Club members met in January at Janice Adler's house where we had had "Breakfast for Dinner". Afterwards we all showed our creative nature by making Valentines for Vets to be brought to the Mid-winter Meeting.



GFWC Cranston Community Women's Club Ethel Dellasandro, President

GFWC Cranston Community Women's Club made Valentines for the Women and Men Veterans and brought them to our January Meeting; and during the meeting our members made more of these cards that will be brought to the State Meeting on February 4. At the beginning of January several of our members got together and donated clothes and household items and furniture to CCAP and brought them to the R I Donation Center as CCAP does not have sufficient storage room at their Doric Ave., building. This is a wonderful facility for the homeless to go to and get what they need whenever they need it.

We have been donating household item, dishes, glasses, pots and pans; etc and bringing them to "Operation Stand Down" for the Holly Charette House and every time we bring them donations, they always send us Thank You cards/letters telling us how they appreciate what we are doing and assure us that everything will go to good use.



We had a prospective member attend our Hanukkah/Christmas Party and she will be joining us at our next meeting, I am happy to report. We brought some children's books and puzzles to a local Day Care Center that were donated by our members who's children received new books and puzzles during the holidays. They explained to their children and grand children that since they had already enjoyed these now more children would be able to enjoy them. We always ask our members to bring their coffee mugs and tea cups to our meetings as we are

always trying to live green to protect our planet. I am happy to say that they did bring them to our January Meeting and usually do to all our meetings. Happy, Healthy New Year's to All!

GFWC Pawtucket Woman's Club Ruth Bennett, President

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Thirty-five members and guests attended our December holiday luncheon at the Wannamoisett Country Club. Our speaker was Stephanie Briggs from the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center who talked about her work in the public schools teaching the students about the problems of bullying and date rape. She accepted the collection of pajamas for the women and children.



Also in December several members worked at the Slater Memorial Park's Winter Wonderland for a "Books Are Wings" party where children could select two free books and make bookmarks.

Our January meeting was the 9th with a guest speaker, Sheryl Marshall, from ACCESS RI, a statewide program of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island designed to serve people experiencing chronic homelessness who have a diagnosis of mental illness and/or substance abuse. The collection of the day included socks, chap sticks, toothbrushes and paste, combs, etc. for the homeless. Following the meeting, the club members created Valentine cards for veterans.

GFWC Rhode Island Ex Club Judy Marak, President

Members of the Ex Club met at Chianti's Restaurant on a rainy evening on October 27.

We had two guests: Janet Trombetti's "boss" here from Washington D.C. and Jean-Ann McGrane, the new CEO of Girl Scouts of Rhode Island with a very impressive resume'. Jean-Ann had been in the position for only six weeks at the time but was very enthusiastic about the new directions the Rhode island girl scouts will be taking in their 100th year. The discussions brought up a number of ideas for interaction between the two organizations.

The next meeting for the Ex Club is scheduled for Thursday April 23, the place to be decided later.

GFWC Warwick Women's Club Janet Trombetti, President

Quick recap of our first four months:

We began our club year in September by reviewing activities accomplished from the previous year to build upon them further. This meeting took place at the Warwick Museum of Art where Pattie Martucci, Program Director worked with us to make Halloween cards. Also at this meeting, Roberta Bianco presented supplies to create thank you cards for our veterans for Veteran's Day. Roberta, Perrin Galli and Perrin's daughter and friend were nice enough to take them home and complete them for us.

Kate Begin from Prevent Child Abuse RI was our speaker for our October meeting. Kate talked about the "Pinwheels for Prevention" program. Our club will be coordinating with the Girl Scouts of RI and a local school to build a "pinwheel garden". October is our clean up month and four clubwomen lead by Madeline Perreault helped to clean up the grounds around the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center where we conduct most of our meetings.



George Shuster was our speaker for the November meeting. George heads up a group that is striving to keep as much of the Rocky Point property open to the public. He spoke to us about the reopening of the Rocky Point shoreline. A donation of \$50 was given to him to help this cause.

With the holidays upon us, we once again held our meeting and holiday celebration at the Clouds Hill Victorian Museum. Wayne Cabral, our host conducted a tour of the building to everyone's delight. At this meeting we collected gloves, hats, scarves and gift cards to be donated to the RI Family Shelter.

At the beginning of our club year, members sign up to donate crafts to the Warwick Boys and Girls Club. Crafts can be any small item that children can make at their after school program – usually items that can be built and/or decorated such as: cards, visors, ornaments, door hangers, etc. Check out A. C. Moore in Warwick, they have a huge selection.

Moving forward to the next five months of the club year, we will be trying some new concepts to build our leadership and membership. Our club board now meets every other month, we will be creating a team of members to review our by-laws and we are working to get every member on a team. We want and need to get our members more involved. And, of course, we hope to build our membership.

Communications Janice Adler

PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

I would like to have a volunteer to take pictures at our state meetings so that I can post them on the website and in "What's Hot." If you are interested, please contact Janice Adler or Debra Capuano.

Natalie Glass Bag by Block Crystal Raffle

Tickets for the GFWC of RI Mid winter Meeting raffle are already on sale.

1 ticket \$2.00 or 3 tickets for \$5.00

Please contact Debra Capuano for tickets if you will be unable to attend the state meeting. Don't miss the chance to own this lovely glass bag.



Calendar

February

- 4 Mid-Winter State Meeting
- 15 Club Reports due to State Chairmen & GFWC

March

- 15 State Chairmen's Reports due to GFWC Chairmen
Deadline for Community Improvement Contest submissions

April

- 5 GFWC of RI Executive Committee meeting
- 12 GFWC of RI Board of Directors meeting
- 23 GFWC RI Ex Club Meeting
- 24 GFWC Federation Day

May

- 19 Annual State Meeting

June

- 14 - 17 GFWC International Convention Charlotte, NC

2011-2012 GFWC of RI Officers and Chairmen

OFFICERS

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| President | Debra Capuano | 885-0077 | dacapuano@cox.net |
| President-elect | Madeline Perreault | 294-8570 | maperreault1@cox.net |
| Vice-president | Janet Trombetti | 943-4328 | janet.trombetti@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Ruth Bennett | 724-7732 | rebennett43@verizon.net |
| Treasurer | Carolyn Traxler | 783-5088 | cctraxler@verizon.net |

CHAIRMEN

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Arts | Doris Landry | 724-7732 | rebennett43@verizon.net |
| By-laws | Judith Marak | 783-4776 | jcmarak@aol.com |
| Clerk/Communications | Janice Adler | 383-0161 | jladler@aol.com |
| Community Improvement Program | Ethel Dellasandro | 942-6683 | ejdri@hotmail.com |
| Conservation | Roberta Bianco | 738-2791 | robertabianco@cox.net |
| Day Of Service | Roberta Bianco | 738-2791 | robertabianco@cox.net |
| Day Of Service | Betty Challgren | 941-1139 | bmchallgren@aol.com |
| Education | Beverly Prestage | 943-1031 | bevprestage@gmail.com |
| Fundraising | TBA | | |
| Home Life | Susan Porth | 737-2651 | susan_porth@hotmail.com |
| International Outreach | Ruth Bennett | 724-7732 | rebennett43@verizon.net |
| Juniors' Special Project: Advocates for Children | Roberta Bianco | 738-2791 | robertabianco@cox.net |
| Leadership | Alexandra Hahn | 521-1482 | ahahn@textron.com |
| Meetings | Mary Irons | 783-9538 | mdiron@cox.net |
| Parliamentary Advisor | Janice Adler | 245-6584 | jladler@aol.com |
| Public Issues | Millie Oziemblewski | 728-7056 | f.oziemblewski@gte.net |
| Signature Project: Domestic Violence | Judith Earle | 736-5707 | jearle@ebchouse.org |
| Sunshine | Ann Hogan | 725-0846 | |
| WHRC | Ann Hogan | 725-0846 | |

2010 -2011 GFWC of RI Club Presidents

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Bristol County | Sandra Pannone | 245-1694 | MISSBARR98@aol.com |
| Cranston Community | Ethel Dellasandro | 942-6683 | ejdri@hotmail.com |
| East Bay | Alyce (Billie) Arden | 438-4904 | |
| Past Presidents | Roberta Bianco | 738-2791 | robertabianco@cox.net |
| Pawtucket | Ruth Bennett | 724-7732 | rebennett43@verizon.net |
| RI Ex Club | Judith Marak | 783-4776 | jcmarak@aol.com |
| South County | Carol Sugarman | 782-9518 | risugarman@aol.com |
| Wampanoag | Nancy Amore | 438-0376 | nancyamore@cox.net |
| Wampanoag | Paula Braman Duarte | 433-4737 | paulabraman3@gmail.com |
| Warwick | Janet Trombetti | 943-4328 | janet.trombetti@gmail.com |