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Pine Tree Notes (January-February 2018)

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General Federation of Women's Clubs - Maine Chapter

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PINE TREE NOTES



Living the Volunteer Spirit with Sparkle & Shine



President's Letter
Mary K. Libby
MKLibby@yahoo.com



Are you familiar with the song whose lyrics are “Baby it’s cold outside”? Well, ladies, it’s cold outside. I rarely complain about the cold, after all we do live in Maine. I think we have all had enough and are looking forward to the warm-up we have been promised for the weekend --- 40 degrees. Even though the weather has been less than ideal, I know clubs around the State have been busy with their work. I look forward to visiting some of the clubs soon.

We have a real need to focus on membership. Our membership is aging and many are not able to be as active as they once were. In order for GFWC Maine to remain a vital program and force, we must increase our membership. How about hosting a reunion of past members. Write each one a personal invitation to join current members for a reception of “old friends”. Maybe, women would want to rejoin.

The International President Sheila Shea has made a Conservation Challenge to each state. The challenge is to create a complete outfit using reusable **Tote Bags**. **Not** the plastic grocery bags but the reusable bags that club members already own and have used. The kind that stores such as Home Goods, TJMaxx, Marshall’s, etc sell. Complete instructions will appear in this issue.

I am asking each club to create an outfit for our Spring Convention. If individuals want to do one for their club that’s great. You may have up to 2 outfits per club. After the Thursday night banquet, we will be having Project Runway featuring our very own Suzanne Raymond as host. It will be an evening to remember.

You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite entry to be announced at Friday’s luncheon. The winning outfit will be entered into the GFWC International fashion show to be held in St. Louis, MO.

This will be a lot of fun and a chance to show off your creativity and fashion sense.

Let’s use these cold winter months to have a little fun. Put sparkle and shine into your creations and walk the “Red Carpet” at our Spring Convention.

Yours in federation friendship,
Mary Libby,
President, GFWC Maine

President Elect

Nancy Ames
Ames76@gmail.com



Vice President

Carol Jarvais
RJ Jarvis@myfairpoint.com



Recording Secretary



Wendy Bowler
WendyBowler@gwi.net



Treasurer

Sheri Walsh
Swalsh1964@gmail.com



Corresponding Secretary

Marjorie Pfeiffer
DMGoodwin2@live.com



Parliamentary Advisor

Libby Wiers

REMINDERS/UPDATES

Pine Tree Notes

The articles for the next edition of the Pine Tree Notes are due to the Sheri Walsh no later than, **March 30, 2018.**

Dimes in a Bottle Still Continuing

To all Clubs please keep putting your Dimes in a Bottle at each meeting to collect the dimes for Mary's special project. Also, we are still collecting school supplies to go to the school. It is important that we, who are so fortunate, can generously support our President's special project. Each Club working together will make this happen!

Marjorie E. Pfeiffer, 496 N. Dixmont Road, Troy, ME 04987, 207-426-8870

Sheri G. Walsh, 524 Moosehead Trail, Newport, ME 04953 - for personal cards and letters. Sheri would like for all mail sent to her regarding GFWC money continue to go to the Ellsworth Post Office box.

Maude MacKenzie Scholarship and Interest Free Loans

To all Club presidents....It is time to contact High Schools in your area regarding the Maude MacKenzie Scholarship and Interest Free Loan applications. Applications may be found on the GFWC MAINE web site. They must be received by Norma Manning no later than April 1, 2018.

GFWC Maine District 1 Art Show

Hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Please save April 21, 2018 for the District 1 Art Show. More information will follow.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District 1 Norma Manning
NManning@maine.rr.com

District 2 Joyce Noonan
janoon@beeline-online.net

June Nickerson-Hovey
judoma2@gmail.com

District 3 Marjorie Goodwin Pfeiffer
DMGoodwin2@live.com

District 4 Marjorie Goodwin Pfeiffer
DMGoodwin2@live.com

CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT 1

GFWC Gorham Woman's Club

Gorham Woman's Club has been busy making cards, for sale and to the Veteran Home in Scarborough. Last year we had bought cards but this year we made all the cards using material and fusing. Everyone participated, we did Spring through to New Years, they will be packaged up this month and delivered to the Veteran home in Scarborough.

Nancy Kenty opened her home to a pot luck lunch in December. Nancy had her home all decorated for Christmas, a good time was had by All.

Our next meeting is the Jan. 11 hopefully it will warm up some, I have 5 layers on today, it would be nice to back down to 3.

We do wish all a very Merry New Year. 2018 sounds like a good year. Keep warm.

DISTRICT 2

GFWC Livermore Falls Women's Club

November is a time when we have one of our top fundraisers. Every year we have a bake sale during the elections. Usually in October we vote on who should receive the funds and this year we chose AYS (Area Youth Sports). Sec. Madeleine Wininger, Treas. Christine Fournier and Pres. Ellen Young attended the AYS Board of Directors meeting in Dec. and presented a check for \$850.00 to support their various programs. All monies were raised through our bake sale.

At our November 16th meeting we had Laura Quinn and Mary Beane from Healthy Community Coalition speak to us about nutrition. They showed the levels of sugar and salt in various products that we normally use by passing around test tubes with the amount of salt/sugar found in certain foods. They explained the language companies use on labels one being fiber and to watch out for common tricks.

They ended by giving everyone a grocery bag and a gift card to Hannafords.

Our December 5th meeting was a holiday luncheon with the Livermore Historical Society. Every year the two groups meet for a luncheon and holiday music. This year Margaret Emery, retired music teacher from Livermore Falls, entertained us with many selections of the holiday season. Members of the Club made sweet breads and gave them to the staff and each person attending the luncheon. This is also a time that we collect money and food donations to give to the local food bank.

Our January 25th meeting will be Doris' Brunch. This brunch is named after Doris Rothrock who served as Secretary of the Club from 1990-1998. She and her husband, a Methodist minister, moved to Livermore Falls from out of state. Every year she would host the January meeting in her home. According to Muriel Bowerman, Doris would serve a jellied salad that everyone raved about. At this meeting we will make copies

available of this recipe for those who wish to make it.

During the business portion of the meeting we have a list of topics to discuss, such as teaming up with other groups in the community, recruitment/membership, what other community projects are we interested in pursuing and can we find more fun workshops for members.

We will continue to work on our Lab robes for Senior's Plus hoping to finish this project by the end of the New Year. We will continue our support of the Harris House recruiting more readers and work on our tissue box holders for each resident. As we finish one project, we will continue to add more.

GFWC/Livermore Falls Women's Club wishes everyone a great New Year and looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Convention, in Waterville, in May.

Ellen Young, Pres.
GFWC/Livermore Falls Women's Club

Waldoboro Woman's Club

With the successful Bake Sale on Election Day behind us, the Waldoboro Woman's Club enjoyed on November 14, hearing the highlights of the Fall Conference and the good news that the Orphans Scholarship Project of our GFWC President Mary Libby has been picked up regionally for the next two years. Our president Judi Lawrence also presented plans for the Spring Conference in May and encouraged as many members as possible to attend.

December found our designated date for our Holiday Luncheon postponed due to poor weather and reset for December 14, at Schooner Cove. Members enjoyed an entrée of beef or salmon served in an elegantly decorated dining room. The ladies brought packages of homemade cookies for Lincoln Home and many unwrapped books and items for the Waldoboro Toys for Tots outreach

program. President Judi called for volunteer hours and an excellent update on our Vice President Carol Blodgett's chemo and radiation completion was greeted with thanksgiving. We shared Christmas greetings and wished all a Happy New Year as we exited into the cold of December.

Jean Lawrence, Secretary

DISTRICT 3

GFWC MIOSAC Club

Dover-Foxcroft

We hope you have enjoyed your holidays with the many blessings of family and friends. We wish everyone an abundance of good health and happiness in 2018!

The club held their Christmas Party on December 5th at the home of Barbara Austin. The food was delicious and the joyous holiday spirit was felt all around the room! The club "adopted" three children this year from the Kiwanis Annual Christmas Project. The ages ranged from 13 years old to 6 months old. Our "elves" went shopping on December 4th to provide clothing and toys for these children to help their families have a brighter and happier Christmas. Those Miosac "elves" were Barbara Austin, Roxy McGlaufflin, Brenda Quiet and Betsey Ryan. The gifts were on display during the party so all members could see what was purchased for these children. After drawing names in November, each member bought a gift that reminded them of the person whose name they had drawn. As each member opened a gift, members had to guess who they thought the gift best represented. This idea began two years ago and is a lot of fun! These gifts were also given to the Kiwanis Annual Christmas Project. A birthday cake was presented to Barbara Austin as we all sang, "Happy Birthday".

The first meeting of 2018 was held on January 2nd with a pot luck supper. The food was wonderful, as was the time spent together catching up on everyone's holidays. We had twelve members in

attendance despite the below zero temperatures outside. We were thrilled to announce we have a new member, Eve Bursey. There will be a new member induction ceremony at the next meeting. It was decided the Sebec Lake "Ice-Out" contest that began in 1976 will continue again this winter. Tickets will be on sale from February 15th through March 31st. The person who guesses the day and closest time the ice goes "out" will win \$100.00. This event is a good fundraiser and much anticipated by local residents and those who reside at the Lake during the summer.

Anne Cress
GFWC Miosac Club President

DISTRICT 4

CASTINE WOMAN'S CLUB

Castine Woman's Club (District 4)

Zoom!!! The Castine Woman's Club's fun and eventful 2017 year just flew by! Another exciting new year is already upon us!

The Club closed out 2017 with a fun-filled Christmas cookie decorating event with Adams School students at the December 5 general meeting specially organized by CWC VP Patty Hutchins. What a joy!

The CWC plans to fill 2018 with engaging events and meetings. The Club, as usual, will not hold general meetings in January, February, and March. The Club is scaling back on its winter activities but plans to hold a community dinner-at-noon in January co-sponsored by the Wilson Museum. The Club also hopes to hold a sewing winter workshop for the Sudan Project.

The Club will resume its regular monthly general membership meetings on April 3 featuring a talk

by Maine Maritime Academy adjunct professor and cruise ship lecturer Sue Hazlett on traveling in Venice and Croatia. The Club's general meetings will continue to be held at and generously co-hosted by the Wilson Museum this year. As usual, the community is invited and always welcome.

Keep Healthy and Hearty... best wishes for a happy and successful 2018 from the Castine Woman's Club!

Val Taub
CWC President

LEADS

The GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) program is intended to identify GFWC members at the grassroots level who have the potential and the desire to assume leadership positions in GFWC beyond their club. Participation in LEADS can help these members gain the capabilities, confidence and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher office and serve with distinction. The LEADS program is held annually the day before the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. It is a full day of activities, and includes breakfast and lunch. For more information on LEADS, contact Nancy Ames at 474-2427.

Upcoming Events GFWC Maine:

February, 2018

Mid-winter Executive Meeting, Westbrook, ME

May 10 & 11, 2018

Spring Convention

Best Western, Waterville, ME

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for GFWC ME Executive Board:

Nancy Ames, President (automatic).... Semper Fidelis Club, Skowhegan

Carol Jarvais, President-elect..... Semper Fidelis Club, Skowhegan

Wendy Bowler, Vice President..... Gorham Woman's Club, Gorham

Elaine Brickman, Recording Secretary.. Westbrook Woman's Club, Westbrook

Sheri G. Walsh, Treasurer.....GFWCNewport Woman's Club, Pittsfield ARTS Club
Skowhegan Woman's Club, Semper Fidelis Club,

Nominating Committee:

Marjorie Pfeiffer, Chairman

Nancy Kenty, District 1

Judi Lawrence, District 2

Raejean Hersey, District 3

Jane L. Shaw, District 4

Membership

Don't forget! GFWC'S "IT'S THE REAL DEAL" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN is still going on. Please submit the names, mailing address, email address, phone number, and club name of those that have been successfully recruited from December, January, and February. Reports are due to me by March 1. You can either email them to me at ljgneal@gmail.com or mail them to me at [342 Pearl Street, Bangor, ME 04401](#).

RECOGNIZE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP: Celebrate members' GFWC service with a variety of GFWC membership pins. GFWC Gold Pins are awarded to 50-year GFWC members. The member's club president requests the Gold Pin, which is free of charge, by filling out the request form that is available at www.GFWC.org. If state and district leaders would like to recognize these long-term members at state or district meetings, they may request information about recent Gold pin recipients in their area from the GFWC Membership Services staff at GFWC@GFWC.org. • GFWC Silver Pins, which recognize 25-year members, may be purchased directly through the GFWC Marketplace at www.GFWC.org/membership/marketplace. • GFWC Five-year, Ten-year, 15-year, 20-year, 30-year and 40-year Pins are available for purchase directly through the GFWC Marketplace and Award Certificates are suggested.

Laura Neal, GFWC Maine Membership Chairman

Barbara Libby, a 57 year member of the Westbrook Woman's Club was made an honorary member at the January meeting. Marian Sturtevant, club president and Mary Libby, GFWC Maine President, spoke at the ceremony.



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

GFWC Maine Spring Conference
May 10-11, 2018 Best Western Waterville Maine
Registration Form

Name: _____ Name for name tag: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Name Of Club/Position: _____
GFWC Maine Position: _____ [] Guest [] Booster
Registration Fee - [] \$15 one day [] \$25 both days

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Make checks payable to GFWC Maine for total of meals and registration fee.
2. Please complete a **separate registration form** for each attendee.
3. Mail registration form and check by April 15, 2018

Pat Currier 21 Mulberry Ln. Scarborough Me. 04074

Please note no refunds will be possible after May 1, 2018 !

4. There will be a \$10 late fee for registrations received after April 16, 2018

Meal selection [prices include tax, service charge and gratuity]

Thursday Lunch;

[] \$18 Deli Sandwich Buffet with Corn Chowder

Thursday Night Banquet;

[] \$30 Dinner Buffet; with Chicken Marsala, Crumbed topped Haddock, or Baked Penne Primavera.
With a salad Dinner roll and Beverage

Friday Breakfast;

[] \$9 Continental- Assorted Juice, fresh brewed coffee, hot tea, fruit and pastries.

Friday Lunch Buffet;

[] \$20 **Pasta and Salad buffet**

Special dietary needs: _____

Registration Fee; _____

Meal Total : _____

Grand total: _____

Best Western Plus Waterville Maine
375 Main Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Guest room rates - \$89 Plus Tax

Reservations must be made by April 14, 2017

Reservations Made after this date will be subject to room availability. To receive rates you must refer to "GFWC Maine" when making your reservation. Early reservations are encouraged!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS-

**Best Western Plus Waterville is conveniently located
directly off Maine Interstate 95.**

Special Guest speakers;

GFWC President Sheila E. Shea was installed as GFWC International President at the conclusion of the 2016 GFWC Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland on June 29, 2016.

An active and dedicated member of the Federation for over forty-three years, Sheila has served her local GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club, GFWC of Massachusetts Junior Membership, GFWC of Massachusetts, and GFWC extremely well in her many leadership positions. During her twenty-two years on the GFWC Board of Directors, she also served as President-elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Leadership Chairman, Aide to the Director of Junior Clubs, and on the Fundraising and Leadership Committees, and represented her state as State President and Director of Junior Clubs.

Sheila's leadership positions in GFWC of Massachusetts include State President; First and Second Vice-President; Treasurer; Counselor to Junior Membership; and Chairman of CIP, Finance, Headquarters Commission, Memorial Education Fund, and Long Range Planning. Her fifteen years of continuous service to GFWC of Massachusetts Junior Membership included Director; Assistant Director; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; District Representative; Parliamentary Advisor; and Chairman of Meetings, Membership, and Nominating.

Utilizing leadership skills developed through her membership in GFWC, Sheila has served her community with distinction as President of the Jaworek Home and School Association, Treasurer of the Marlborough High School All Sports Booster Club, Secretary of the Marlborough Youth Soccer Association, and member of the Marlborough Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors.

Sheila is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She retired from her position as Grants/Finance Manager in her local school district with over twenty-six years of service. She is an avid sports fan and enjoys her summers relaxing on the beach in Kennebunk, Maine. A life-long Massachusetts resident, she and her husband, Steve, have been married for forty-five years and have two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and newborn

granddaughter. Sheila credits them for the love and unselfish support she has had over the years to be able to take advantage of the incredible opportunities that have been afforded to her through her membership in GFWC. She has also had the unwavering support of so many members from her state and is comfortable both as a leader and a follower in her long career as a GFWC volunteer.

Because of her warm, friendly, and enthusiastic personality; high standards of excellence and accountability; proven creative and compassionate leadership qualities; outstanding and business-oriented organizational skills; and passionate dedication to GFWC, its mission, and its ideals; Sheila brings a unique leadership style to her new role as the fifty-first GFWC International President.

Dr Charles Radis

Dr. Radis is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine, and has taught in the internal medicine, pediatric, and family practice programs at both Maine Medical Center and the University of New England. He has volunteered extensively, teaching family practice residents at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in southern India, and more recently helping to develop a sustainable collaborative public health project in South Sudan through a non-profit he founded with his wife, Sandi, The Maine African Partnership for Social Justice.

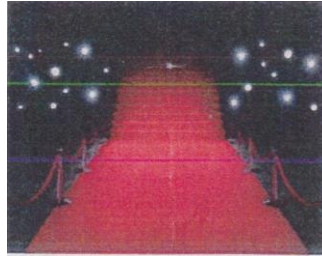
Living the Volunteer Spirit with Sparkle & Shine GFWC MAINE 125 Years of Volunteer Service

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Castine Woman's Club Past President Jean Devereux (front center) enjoying holiday fun with Adams School students at the CWC December 5 Christmas cookie decorating meeting at the Wilson Musuem

2018 GFWC Annual Convention
Conservation Challenge
GFWC Style Project Runway!



Every state is invited to participate in the Conservation Challenge to be held at the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri – June 23-26, 2018.

The Challenge: To create a complete outfit using reusable **Tote Bags**. NOT plastic grocery bags but the reusable bags that are sold at Home Goods, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Macy's, almost anywhere.

Time Limit: You will have until the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention to create your state's entry. You should use bags that club members already own and have used; you should not buy them just for this purpose.

Rules: (1) Your fashion entry must be a complete outfit; i.e., dress, top and skirt, top and pants, jumpsuit.



(2) Either fabric reusable bags or plastic reusable bags can be used; you **CANNOT** use plastic grocery bags.

(3) Entry must be made of at least 80% tote bags; other fabric and some clothing may be used, but the entire outfit must be at least 80% tote bags.

(4) Entry does NOT have to be sewn; any way you keep it together acceptable. But beware of possible wardrobe malfunction!

(5) You must provide a volunteer model for your outfit.

(6) Outfit can be accessorized; but use accessories wisely!

(7) Entries should be STATE entries. ONE PER STATE. NO individual entries or club entries will be accepted. Participating states must register their intention to participate by April 1, 2018.



Leadership

Leadership skills are the tools, behaviors, and capabilities that a person needs in order to be successful at motivating and directing others. True leadership skills involve something more; the ability to help people grow in their own abilities. It can be said that the most successful leaders are those that drive others to achieve their own success.

You have heard the phrase, “A born leader”. These leaders are committed to a vision or mission. A GFWC leader understands her role and demonstrates integrity. She tends to lead by example. She knows how to motivate the behavior of others and communicates effectively. A GFWC leader is willing to take risks and is adept at problem-solving.

A clubwoman does not have to be born with leadership skills. These skills can be learned. All that is really required is an open mind, patience with yourself as you learn these skills, and the commitment to put what you have learned into action.

There are three traits every successful leader must have. Integrity, commitment to the vision and mission of GFWC, and the desire to lead. You can attempt to lead without these traits, but at least four things will eventually happen if you do:

- You will be so miserable you will suffer burnout.
- Your club will fail in completing their projects.
- Your club members will leave.
- Your members will lose respect for you.

Please think about these ideas and what you can do to change your prospective on how you view leadership and the role you play in GFWC.

In Federation Love,
Anne. H. Cress
GFWC Maine Leadership Chairman

I needed some filler material and thought this might be something members would enjoy. This is a speech that Babs Condon sent me and I added some additional material to it and incorporated some info from the GFWC website. I hope you enjoy it. Sheri

GFWC History

GFWC clubs and club women have played a crucial role in women's history both past and future. GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly - a professional New York journalist - formed a club for women. After 22 years, she extended an invitation to other women's clubs throughout the United States to attend a convention in New York City. Members from 63 clubs attended and that April in 1890 they took action to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

GFWC was originally established as a means of self-education and personal and professional development for women and over the last 121 years there have been some lively disagreements over various resolutions or bylaws revisions. Our founding mothers decided to form a Federation. They chose this type of organization on purpose - not going with the more popular Association. For you see, the leaders of an association dictate the rules, the names, the dues amounts, and even tell their chapters or clubs what their bylaws will say. Our founders didn't want that – because we were fighting over a basic human right back in those days – the right to vote and own property. You can bet that our GFWC

clubwomen worked on this issue. In fact, many of the women who belonged to GFWC were groomed to be political actors on a local level - prior to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote.

Unfortunately – these same women who didn’t want to restrict our members in any way - would never have believed that just by forming a “Federation” – it might keep us from gaining recognition. They brought “existing” women’s clubs together and by creating a Federation – they could NOT dictate that we all use the same name like the Lions, or the Rotary or the Kiwanis clubs did.

Perhaps if every club had used GFWC in their names for the last 121 years, our entire country would know what GFWC clubs do and what we stand for.

Recognition is one of the main factors in gaining new members, and yet, even though NOW, we understand this “branding” principal – some of our members continue to put up barriers that keep people from recognizing us - as the women who GET THINGS DONE.

However - because we have had many strong women in our Federation - we have a notable record of governmental activity on issues of historical importance.

From the late 1860's until 1920 - the suffrage movement played a key role in history and GFWC members were noted as being right in the thick of this avalanche of debate, protest and advocacy for political reform.

In the late 1800s, as the woman suffrage movement gained momentum, GFWC women became more attentive to social issues, such as food and drug safety, worker safety, and child labor. Factory and business owners fought against women's right to vote -often because they were worried that women would pass laws requiring changes in procedures and make it more expensive to operate their businesses. Julia Ward Howe who is known for her poem The Battle Hymn of the Republic - co-founded a GFWC club in New England and is known as the founder of the American Woman’s Suffrage Association.

1898: GFWC convention attendees unanimously passed a resolution against child labor.

1899: GFWC's Chicago Woman's Club supported the juvenile court law, the first ever to be passed in the United States. This law became the model for all subsequent juvenile court laws, many of which were passed at the insistence of GFWC clubwomen. Julia Lathrop - who led this club’s effort and was appointed by President William Howard Taft to head the Children's Bureau in 1912.

1901: The 56th Congress of the United States chartered GFWC and designated that the Federation be headquartered in Washington, DC. In the beginning - we had a traveling trunk filled with the records and documents of the federation which was passed along from officer to officer. Eventually we rented office space in DC and the documents found a temporary home.

In 1902, a doctor and chemist named Harvey Wiley began to orchestrate the lobbying effort of physicians, chemists, women’s clubs, journalists and segments of the food, drug and liquor industries in favor of Federal legislation for the regulation of food. When the Pure Food and Drug Act was finally passed in 1906, it was mainly due to the public being drawn into the debate about food safety. Women, the ones who prepared the family meals, banded together and GFWC member Alice Lakey spearheaded

a letter and telegram writing campaign. Dr. Harvey Wiley, who was appointed as the first chief of the Pure Food Bureau, attributed the bill's passing to GFWC and is quoted as saying, "Trust GFWC to put the ball over the goal line every time". What would have happened if we had NOT worked together on this important safety issue? How long would it have taken?

1910s: GFWC supported legislation for the eight-hour workday, workplace safety and inspection, and workmen's compensation. Members also supported prison reform legislation.

1916: GFWC worked with the Children's Bureau to promote National Baby Week. Over 2,000 clubs participated by focusing on infant and maternal mortality, birth registration, and public health facilities. The Federation's efforts resulted in the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921), which advanced maternal education.

1919: Under the direction of the YMCA, GFWC created the Overseas Service Unit and sent 100 young women to Europe to assist wounded soldiers in the aftermath of World War I.

1921: GFWC created the Indian Welfare Committee, which worked improving both education and health facilities on reservations, as well as preserving Native American culture.

Did you know that Eleanor Roosevelt was an active member of a Woman's Club in New York, and maintained strong ties with the Federation throughout her years as the First Lady? But even before FDR was elected as our US President, he and his wife lived in DC - on N Street. Eleanor informed the GFWC officers that a suitable building for our national headquarters was for sale - just up the street from her home at the time, and that is how we came to purchase 1734 N Street, NW in Washington, DC to serve as the Federation's International Headquarters in 1922. Did you know that Eleanor Roosevelt was a guest of the Castine Women's Club?

In addition to staff offices and rooms for meetings and receptions, one floor was designated to serve as an apartment for the International President (where Carlene Garner has taken up residence these two years).

Did you know that in 1924 - a GFWC California club woman came up with the idea of painting a white line down the middle of the roads as a safety measure? History tells us that she was almost run off the road by a large truck - which started her on the road of many long years of dedication to road safety. When she finally accomplished her goal of getting lines painted on her state highways to mark the center of the road - other states soon followed suit - because she had enlisted the aid of her fellow Federation members across the country. How many lives did GFWC clubs save with this idea?

In 1925, GFWC initiated a nationwide Federation survey of the American home, which placed a spotlight on the status of technology in the home. The survey led to the inclusion of homemaker as an occupation on the 1930 United States Census.

Students of national and local public library history note that the library movement was inextricably tied to the growth of women's organizations. The last quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed a proliferation of women's literary and cultural clubs in American cities and towns. Their platform of "Domestic Feminism" emphasized the role of women in education with a cultural uplift, and libraries became a key component of these women's clubs civic reform efforts. Many of these literary and

cultural clubs were GFWC clubs who founded over 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries.

Our women's clubs were credited by the American Library Association with establishing 75 percent of America's public libraries in the 1930's and supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority today.

During WWII - in 1944: GFWC had a Buy a Bomber campaign where state federations sold war bonds worth over \$154 million - enough money to purchase the first 431 of 450 B-52 bombers in the first year of production.

In 1945: GFWC was one of the five women's organizations chosen to participate in the conference to form the United Nations. At the conference, GFWC representatives supported the ratification of the United Nations Charter.

In 1950: GFWC began its relationship with the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE). The organizations jointly distributed relief shipments to Korea.

In 1955: GFWC first established the Community Achievement Program, which recognized clubs that best improved the quality of life in their communities. Now called the Community Improvement Contest, it remains one of GFWC's longest running and most important efforts.

In 1960: Brighten the Night was a nationwide Federation campaign for street lighting to prevent crime and accidents.

In 1961: GFWC's Women's Crusade for Seat Belts program resulted in the installation of more than one million seat belts over the course of one year , but can you believe that the first state law **REQUIRING** the use of seatbelts wasn't passed until 1984? Our GFWC clubs banded together and lobbied for this safety measure too. We have always stood for what is important for our families – and fought for what we believe.

In the 1970s: GFWC responded to the startling rise in crime with a citizen-based grassroots program called Hands Up, which was applauded as a "valuable public service" by President Gerald R. Ford.

In 1984: GFWC founded the Women's History and Resource Center dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting all of the histories, contributions and records of our proud 121 year history of volunteer service.

In 1986: in keeping with GFWC's commitment to conservation, the Federation developed programs and projects to help protect and preserve endangered species.

1990s: GFWC actively supported the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; and legislation supporting handgun control.

1997: GFWC renewed its commitment to libraries with a project called Libraries 2000. Over the next five years, GFWC clubwomen raised and donated \$13.5 million to public libraries and public school libraries across the nation.

During the 2000-2002 administration, GFWC members contributed over \$200,000 to fully fund an Operation Smile Mission to the Philippines. I was lucky enough to be your GFWC chairman for this project and participated in the mission and saw the amazing transformation of over 1000 children's lives - one smile at a time - which resulted from your donations.

Did you know that since 1984 GFWC clubwoman have funded more than 105 complete Operation Smile missions to fix cleft lips and cleft palates of young adults and children in developing countries? Where would these children and young adults be without GFWC?

During the 2004-2006 administration, GFWC members contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance for use by the New York Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered during 911.

GFWC has earned a reputation as a powerful force in the fight against domestic violence. During the 2006-2008 administration, our members donated over \$15.9 million dollars to DV shelters and organizations who fight DV.

Just in the last 5 years - GFWC clubs have donated over \$60 million dollars to Domestic Violence Shelters across our country. We have adopted Domestic Violence Awareness as our Signature Project. We will bring this violent act out of the closets and make the law makers enforce tough laws against perpetrators. We are STRONG and we know DV is wrong.

GFWC clubs and members have played an incredible role in the history of our country and the world. So where do you think our world and country would be without GFWC?