



Tidewater Tidings

Tidewater District GFWC Virginia
Winter, 2024



Tidewater Tidings Editor
Judy Middleton
judytmiddleton@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Tidewater President's Council

December 19 11:00 AM
Cypress Point CC

Club Reporting Workshop

December 9 7:00 PM
Zoom

Arts and Crafts Show

March 9th 1:00-3:00
Woman's Club of Hampton
171 Columbia Avenue

Tidewater District Spring Meeting

March 22
Atlantic Shores

Links

[Tidewater District GFWC](#)

[Virginia Facebook](#)

[GFWC Website](#)

[GFWC Facebook](#)

[GFWC Member Portal](#)

[GFWC News and Notes](#)

[GFWC WHRC Website](#)

[GFWC Virginia Website](#)

[GFWC Virginia Facebook](#)

Bee Kind to Mankind



President, Tidewater District GFWC Virginia

Jane May, tidepres246@yahoo.com



Ladies,

Thanksgiving is almost here. I have a lot to be thankful for this year – YOU! Thank you for supporting the District Project “Feeding Families and Fur Friends.” At the Fall meeting you donated 510 lbs. of food. Thank you for *Beeing Kind to Mankind* and all you do to help others and make our communities better places. Remember to keep track of those hours and donations – reporting is just around the corner.

Thank you for completing the Fall District critique sheets. Responses to your questions and concerns are:

- Why is reporting not based on club year? Reporting is based on the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). This creates a level field for reporting since club years vary from club to club throughout GFWC.

-Omit executive committee officers report reading. Officer reports will not be read but will be emailed to you.

-More time for socialization and more workshops. We only have the facility for so many hours. Registration, workshops, district business and lunch must all fit within the schedule. Social time is the morning registration and lunch.

The holidays are fast approaching, and the new year is just around the corner. Before the end of 2025, please remember to join the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Let your voice be heard.

We will be buzzing into 2025. Get ready!

Virginia will be a GFWC destination in 2025-2026.

- The 2025 GFWC Southeast Region (SER) Conference will be October 22-26 in Roanoke at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.
- The 2025 GFWC Virginia Convention will be April 30 – May 4 at Doubletree in Richmond
- GFWC Virginia Conference will be August 7-10 at the Hotel 24 South, Staunton.
- The 2026 GFWC Virginia State Convention will be April 22-25 at the Doubletree Williamsburg.
- Our Tidewater District Spring meeting is March 22 at Atlantic Shores, Virginia Beach. Our GFWC Virginia President, Susie Mowry and GFWC Virginia Third Vice President, Joanne Dixon will be joining us for the spring meeting. Mark your calendars!

May our journey together be as sweet and smooth as honey!

Bee Kind to Mankind

Have a *Beautiful Holiday Season!*

In Federation Friendship,

Jane





First Vice President, Leadership
Maureen Mike, maureenmike@gmail.com

This Leadership article is taken from the GFWC Leadership Toolkit 2024-2026. I found it helpful and hope you do too. Enjoy your holidays with friends and family!!

For new growth to happen, we need to cut or **PRUNE** areas that are no longer working. Vocabulary.com says prune means to clip, crop, cut back, and weed out. Removing dead, diseased or unproductive wood, strengthens the limbs and produces new growth. This is in reference to a tree but can be applied to our life and the life of our club in areas where we need to prune. When is the best time to prune? Prune during a dormant period. Since we are in a dormant period locally and nationally, it is the perfect time. Prune when there is no growth. Each time you make a cut, you stop growth in one direction and encourage it in another. Prune quickly anytime there is disease attacking the tree. This is regarding our health and the health of our clubs. Pruning is crucial. What our life looked like prior to the lockdown, will not get us to the end of the year. The PRUNE process is an acronym to help us cut out the places that are not producing fruit or the results we desire in our life and the life of our clubs.

Purge – The P in Prune is for Purge.

Remove excess and declutter mentally, emotionally and physically. When we purge, we remove things that are not working and drain our time and energy. With each part of the process, continue to use them throughout the process. For example, we purge and take out what is not working from P to E in the process.

Reflect – The R in Prune is for Reflect.

The best tool that I have found for reflection is an online or handheld journal. During this part of the process, we need to answer some tough questions. What are we doing now that is working? What’s not working? Cutting out some of the projects on our “to do list” that are no longer serving us, will help us to focus on our current commitments and promote growth.

Unbury – The U in Prune is for Unbury. Look for the root cause and fresh ideas.

Dig to find the root cause (what is causing us to be stuck) remove it and seek out fresh ideas (collaboration with others). I have seen the root cause revealed within a few months, or years depending on the obstacle and how long it has been in our lives.

Next Steps – The N in Prune is for Next Steps - Plan and Act.

Determine the next step we need to take to get closer to our goal of decluttering and organizing our life and the life of our club. That is where Planning and Executing the plan comes into play. We all organize and process information differently and what works for one person, may not necessarily work for another (notebook vs online.)

Evaluate – The E in Prune is for Evaluate. Did it work? Changes? Cost?

All organizing systems take time to implement and need to be evaluated and maintained. The PRUNE process is circular and can be repeated in different areas of life and our business. We all have the power to influence others and to improve our life and the life of the club. As leaders, it is crucial that we take the time during this dormant season to go through the PRUNE process and examine our life and cut out what isn’t working, so that all that is left is a healthy club and an organized, decluttered life.

Created by Melonie A. Benjamins, GFWC North Pinellas Woman’s Club Leadership Chairman (FL), mirrorsandbridges.com. February 2021



Did you miss the Summer Conference but want the workshop’s handouts?

Click on the link below!

[Information from 2024 Conference Chairmen Sessions](#)
[and GFWC 2024-2026 Club Manual](#)



Second Vice President, Membership
Carol Preston, carolpreston1969@gmail.com

Hello Ladies!

I hope you have enjoyed our warm Fall and are busy with wonderful projects. Don't forget to nurture your members!

To retain members, everyone must be excited about the club and its opportunities for personal growth and friendships. Pairing experienced and new members to meet and share ideas and expectations is a good way to accomplish this task. Create groups of seasoned members and new members and ask:

Seasoned Members

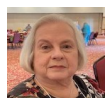
What advice do you have for new members?
What club accomplishments are you most proud of?

New Members

What ideas do you have for community service projects?
What talents or interests do you want to share with the club?
Allow 10 minutes or so to share. Let seasoned members go first.

[Download Membership Coupon Here](#)

REMEMBER TO SEND MEMBERSHIP COUPONS TO ME AS SOON AS YOU GET NEW MEMBERS.
Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!



Treasurer
Margie Shelton, mimmee70@gmail.com

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Presidents and Treasurers, if your Club has a new President or Treasurer since last winter, please email me their name and email address. You will receive an email about paying district, state and national club dues about mid-December. Those dues are due on January 25th, 2025.

District Chairs are reminded that you are entitled to a \$25 allotment each year to help with your expenses. You will need to complete a voucher and attach receipts. I can mail or email a voucher to you. If your receipt total is more than \$25, you will only receive the budgeted \$25. If the receipts are less than \$25, that is the amount you will receive. Mail the completed voucher with receipt(s) to me.

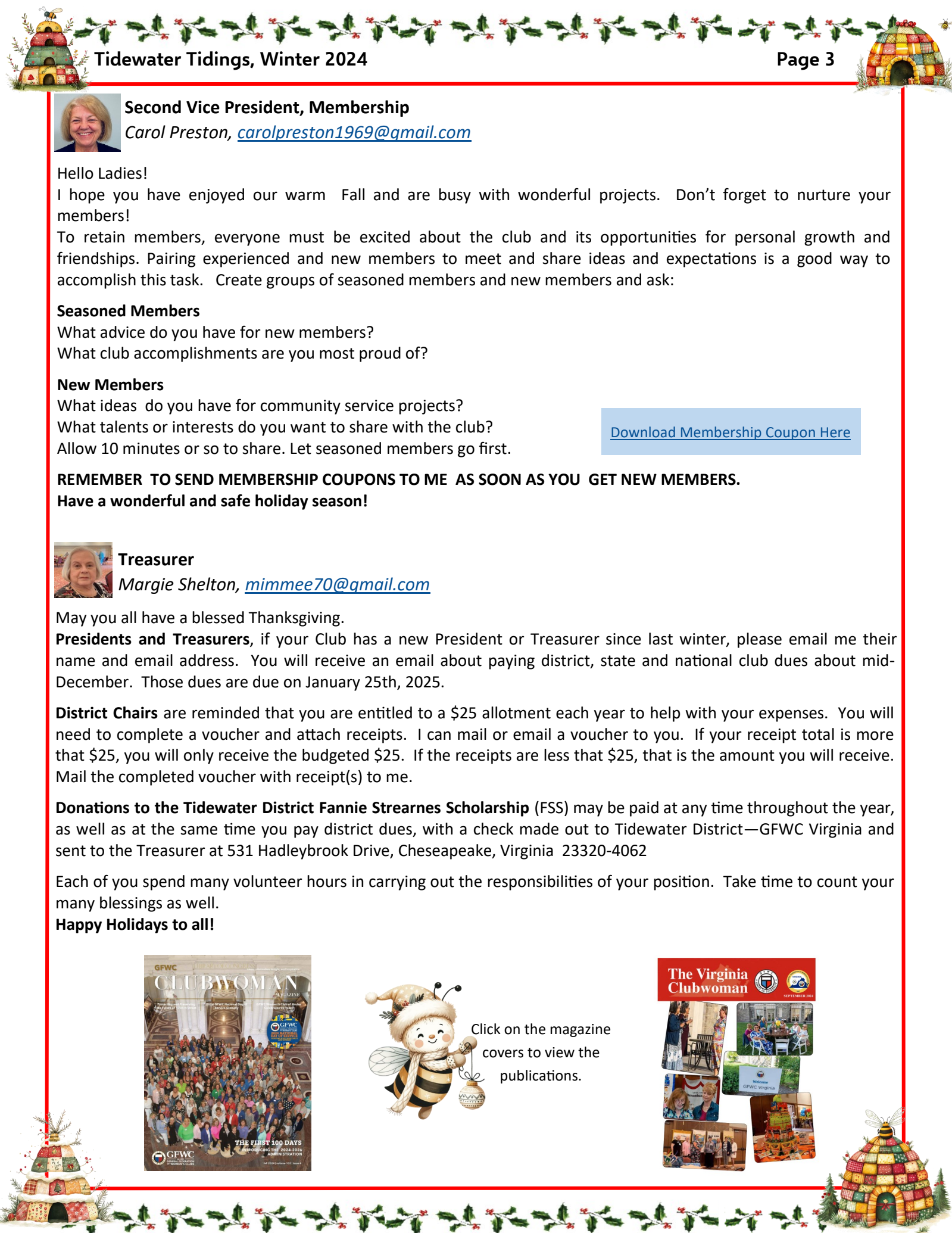
Donations to the Tidewater District Fannie Strearnes Scholarship (FSS) may be paid at any time throughout the year, as well as at the same time you pay district dues, with a check made out to Tidewater District—GFWC Virginia and sent to the Treasurer at 531 Hadleybrook Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320-4062

Each of you spend many volunteer hours in carrying out the responsibilities of your position. Take time to count your many blessings as well.

Happy Holidays to all!



Click on the magazine covers to view the publications.





Recording Secretary

Brenda Berry, Bberry1@verizon.net

"Winter is not a season, it's a celebration." – Anamika Mishra

As we celebrate the winter season, the recording secretary plays a key role in ensuring a club's smooth operations, especially when winter presents unique challenges. From managing communications to tracking projects and approving finances, the recording secretary maintains the organization's structure and clarity. Their role becomes even more crucial during the winter months, when weather disruptions, seasonal events, and increased absenteeism can test a club's continuity.

Winter weather can lead to meeting cancellations or rescheduling, but accurate minutes allow the club to pick up seamlessly where it left off, preserving momentum in discussions. The secretary also documents seasonal activities, such as holiday events or charity drives, ensuring that all members are informed of their roles and responsibilities. This keeps winter events organized and on track.

Winter also brings an increase in illness and travel, leading to more absences. Detailed meeting minutes help absent members catch up on what they missed, ensuring they stay engaged and informed. Additionally, as clubs often review budgets and plan for the upcoming year during the winter, the recording secretary is vital in documenting financial decisions and maintaining transparency in approvals.

In essence, the recording secretary ensures that, despite winter's challenges, the club stays organized, efficient, and connected, setting the stage for success in the year ahead. Through effective communication, financial oversight, and precise record-keeping, they help navigate the season's obstacles and keep the club moving forward.



Parliamentary Advisor

Nancy Vadersen, nsmoskwa@verizon.net

Over the past few years, many of our clubs have utilized electronic meetings, usually via Zoom, to conduct business. This has proven to be a valuable resource, especially when time is of the essence to address a motion or even to hold a meeting.

According to Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, Sections 9:30-9:36, "the business of an organization or board can be validly transacted at a regular or properly called meeting. There is an increasing preference, especially in the case of a relatively small board or other assembly, to transact business at electronic meetings. A group that holds such alternative meetings does not lose its character as a deliberative assembly so long as the meetings provide, at a minimum, conditions of opportunity for simultaneous aural communication among all participating members equivalent to those of meetings held in one room or area. Under such conditions, an electronic meeting that is properly authorized in the bylaws is treated as though it were a meeting at which all the members who are participating are actually present."

If your club's By-Laws do not include a section allowing for electronic meetings, this will need to be added. That is as simple as adding a sentence in the section about Meetings stating that "meetings may be held as a body or electronically following the guidelines in Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised." Please feel free to contact me (nsmoskwa@verizon.net) if you have any questions regarding parliamentary procedure.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season!





GFWC Signature Program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness
 Beverly Seymour, ladybeverly@cox.net and Linda Rayfield, linda.rayfield@gmail.com

We'd like to thank all the District Ladies who attended our Domestic and Sexual Awareness and Prevention Workshop at the Fall District Meeting of the Tidewater District.

During this Workshop, many shocking statistics on Domestic and Sexual Violence in America were presented. We are in the 21st Century yet the horror of Domestic Violence against Women continues to increase year over year. Just over 25% of all women experience sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. Approximately 20% of female victims of Domestic Violence need medical care.

We must stop this type of toxic culture of violence against women. Did you know that, on a typical day, Domestic Violence hotlines nationwide receive over 21,000 calls? This is per day.

Many feel it is safer to continue experiencing abuse or violence than it is to seek help. But due to perceived risks and language barriers, few feel safe seeking help. As a result, many remain in abusive and violent situations and suffer silently.

What can we ladies of the Tidewater District clubs do to help?

Work with the various established programs in the community and initiate educational opportunities for club members and local citizens. Help educate people in your community. Let people know about abuse. We know this is not something we want to discuss but we should not be afraid to discuss it openly. Knowledge is power and will help to end this horrible abuse of women. We must try to stop Domestic Violence against women at its root – not just after it has happened. You have the power to help and make change.

We'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We thank each and every Club for embracing this Signature Program.



Junior Special Program, Advocates for Children
 Sharon Stephens, stephensmj@cox.net

It has been a busy Fall and the New Year ahead gives clubs an opportunity to explore ways to support Advocates for Children and be a voice for children. Make yourself heard!

GFWC sponsored a Zoom meeting with Safe Surfn' in October that was recorded and is available to be viewed. It demonstrates many areas of concern regarding Tech and our kids.

Safe Surfn' volunteers are trying to help children navigate the internet safely and keep everyone informed of the danger zones. Be sure to watch all the information and discover how we in Tidewater can have an impact.

The State's focus on Early Childhood Education ties in with Advocates for Children also. Is there a Head Start Program in your area? Talk to your School system and ask them how you can help them. Do they need books for kindergarten? Can you volunteer to read to classes? Do you have a skill/talent that would benefit classrooms? Can you start a Little Free Library? Support St. Jude Research Hospital, Shot at Life, Operation Smile, March of Dimes, UNICEF, Hope for Justice.

Look ahead to April which is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Plant a blue pinwheel garden to raise awareness.

Reporting Information - Please use the GFWC Virginia Narrative Form and use "GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children" as the Program Area when reporting. Optional Supplemental Reporting – both downloadable forms and an online form – can be found on the GFWC Virginia Reporting Forms site and on page 147–149 of the Yearbook.



GFWC Virginia State Project, Early Childhood Education

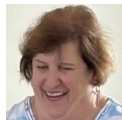
Nancy Vadersen, nsmoskwa@verizon.net

This fall, Tidewater District Clubwomen have been busy with innovative projects in support of the GFWC Virginia State Project, Early Childhood Education!

Clubwomen have filled backpacks with school supplies for kindergarten students, assisted the Armed Services YMCA at their annual photo session by helping children create an American flag ornament before they had their photo taken, partnered with the local library to give participants of the Winter Reading Challenge the opportunity to create their own bot using craft supplies, raffled a Christmas lap quilt with the proceeds going to the State Project, partnered with another club to collect plastic for a TRES bench that will be placed at a Title One school as a "buddy bench," and worked with REACH, Inc., that runs the Big Free Bookstore where anyone, babies to adults, can choose free books. Other clubs have toured the Peake Early Childhood Development Center in Hampton, made plans to purchase equipment for the new Peake Center opening in Newport News in March, 2025, donated children's books and supplies for the Teacher Supply Closet to an elementary school, collected children's books to distribute at a local clinic, and gathered materials to make pine cone bird feeders with early childhood students. They have even purchased two chick incubators and a book about chickens for a kindergarten class for children with special needs.

As you can see, the possibilities for projects are endless! If your club has a project that you would like me to highlight, please email me at nsmoskwa@verizon.net. Remember to include your projects in your State Project Report; simply copy information from your CSP reporting narratives about any project that supports Early Childhood Education, paste it on your State Project Report narrative form, and email it to me by January 25th.

Many thanks for all that you do to support the State Project, and I look forward to hearing more about your clubs' projects in January.



Tidewater District Special Project, Food Insecurity

Julie Rogers, juliebob57@verizon.net



Bee kind

Wow! What an incredible GFWC National Day of Service! Tidewater District contributed a total of 510 pounds of food for our neighbors in need, which included 50 meal kits. Our donations and meal kits were delivered to Thrive, as shown in the photo. We have been informed that the meal kits are extremely popular!





GFWC Virginia Affiliate Coordinator
Terry Putman, terryputman92@yahoo.com

GFWC’s Measles Mission with Shot@Life

Shot@Life is a United Nations Foundation campaign working to ensure everyone in the world has access to lifesaving vaccines and all children have a shot at life. GFWC has partnered with Shot@Life for 12 years to help educate about global vaccine equity, advocate for immunization programs worldwide, and support the immunization efforts of the United Nations.

GFWC’s Measles Mission will help Shot@Life’s UN partners provide measles vaccines to children worldwide. This will be a priority over the Get a Shot, Give a Shot campaign. GFWC hopes to protect 16,00 children from measles through this two-year fundraising initiative. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases and kills more than 136,00 people, mostly unvaccinated children, each year. Global measles cases doubled between 2021 and 2022 and continue to surge. Fortunately, measles vaccines are effective and inexpensive. For \$5, a child can receive the 2 doses they need to be protected against the disease for life. To learn how your club can help, go to www.shot@life.org/gfwc-measles

World Polio Day/UN Day

Many of us may remember going to our school gym to receive the polio vaccine on a cube of sugar in the early 1950s. About 16,000 cases of polio (paralytic poliomyelitis) occurred each year in the U.S. in the 20th century compared with none in 2020. The United Nations and programs such as Shot@Life address issues of global health and eradicate many diseases. October 24 was World Polio Day and UN Day. It is both the birthday of the United Nations and of Jonas Salk, who created the first successful vaccine against polio. It has been 30 years since America was declared free of wild polio!



Reporting Chairman
Judy Middleton, judytmiddleton@gmail.com

[GFWC Reporting Forms and Information](#)

[2024-2026 GFWC Virginia Yearbook](#)

You need a MEMBERS log-in to access the forms and yearbook from the above links.

- The reporting guidelines in the GFWC Virginia Yearbook begin on page 91.
- For information on in-kind donations, click [here](#).
- To find out where to report projects, click [here](#). This guide includes examples of projects and suggestions on where they may fit in reporting; however, it is your club's decision on where to report a project. Please note that this guide is derived from California, so some areas may only be relevant to that state.

Along with this newsletter, I have attached a document that directs you to the appropriate district or state chairman/officer to email your report.

Important Reporting Dates

- December 5 GFWC Virginia Reporting Meeting - Zoom
- December 9 Tidewater District Reporting Meeting - Zoom
- January 9 GFWC Virginia District Chairman Meeting - Zoom
- January 21 Tidewater District Chairman Meeting - Zoom
- January 25 Deadline for all reports and dues
- February 20 District Chairman deadline to send reports to state



District Arts and Crafts Contest

Shirley Labiak, shirleycen@aol.com and Shelia Blackwell, sbwbo2@gmail.com

Shelia and I are looking forward to chairing the Arts and Craft Contest again this year. Wow! we have some wonderfully talented ladies in the Tidewater District. The show will be held on Sunday, March 9th at the Woman’s Club of Hampton Clubhouse. 171 Columbia Avenue, Hampton, Virginia from 1pm – 3pm.

Some important Dates to Remember:

February 1, 2025 Deadline for Writing: Short Stories and Poetry

Include the Official Entry Form and current Waiver Form. Mail to Shirley Labiak, 5095 Cypress Point Circle, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455.

February 23, 2025 Arts and Crafts

Deadline for mailing entry cards to Shirley Labiak. Same address as above

March 4, 2025 Tuesday from 10am – 1pm

Drop off your entries at the Woman’s Club of Hampton Clubhouse.

March 9, 2025 Arts and Crafts Show from 1pm – 3pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley or Shelia at the email above.



Arts and Culture

Cheryl VanBuren, pooh1212@hotmail.com

Happy Holidays! Wow, we are already into the Holiday season and we as clubwomen know that after the holidays it’s reporting season!!! Here are a few quick ideas to add to your reports in the Art and Culture Department.

- Have your club make simple Christmas ornaments, especially from recycled materials, and give them to local nursing homes or child care centers.
- Have a poem contest for club members with a Holiday theme.
- Do a lyric challenge: pick a holiday song and have club members change the words; best one wins.
- Have the club do an international cookie exchange.
- Have a speaker talk about their Holiday traditions.
- Go and see a local production of The Nutcracker or a Holiday Concert.
- Plan a trip to see light displays; there are tons in the area.

So, look around and find some fun things to do. There is Art and Culture everywhere if you just take time to see it.

Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year.



Civic Engagement and Outreach

Terry Putman, terryputman92@yahoo.com

The recent devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in areas of western Virginia and North Carolina have brought to the forefront the importance of emergency preparedness. “Community Connection Initiative: Preparation Save Lives” is the emphasis of the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Chair, Vicky Ann Trimme.

One of the primary ways GFWC members can prepare themselves and others for emergencies is by creating a “Family Emergency Binder.” Some information this binder should include:

Personal: websites and passwords, marriage and driver’s license, birth certificates, passports

Financial: bank accounts, credit cards, mortgage info, loans

Insurance: all insurance policies such as life, home, and auto

Home and Auto: real estate holdings, vehicles owned

Retirement: IRA, 401K, Social Security

Business: business entities

Medical: Physicians, medications, hospital stays, medical directive

Important Contacts: Attorney, Financial advisor, close family and friends, employer, and employees





Education and Libraries

Joan Davis, joanbdavis05@gmail.com

Since its beginning, GFWC has advocated for education to enable the advancement of women and children. Education is the one thing that can level the playing field for all. Ruby Payne, author of "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" states that there are two things that help one move out of poverty: education and relationships. Embracing achievement in education and making relationships with good mentors can enable a person from poverty to move to the middle class and beyond.

Did you know? In the 1930s GFWC Women's Clubs were credited by the American Library Association with founding approximately 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries. Supporting local libraries continues to be one of GFWC's priorities today.

Libraries are safe places that bring people of all ages together; libraries offer free access to all people's information from books, online resources, and classes.

The Hampton Woman's Club recently had a program from the Willow Oaks Library, which has had a recent facelift. The club learned about all the books, audiobooks, and Lucky Day Book -if it's on this shelf, it's a new release, and your lucky day to check it out!

Then a picture of an empty shelf came on the screen, and it was titled, "Library of Things." Hampton Public Libraries are building a library of things to check out. It might be a cake pan or a yard tool. They are also looking for sewing machines to teach lessons on sewing. We were very fascinated by this project and think we probably have lots of things we could donate to the "Library of Things!"



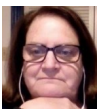
Environment

Leslie Crandol, leslie@crandol.com

As we approach the end of 2024, I want to thank each of you for participating in environmental programs in your communities and in programs and workshops provided by the many levels of GFWC. We must do our part to help safeguard our planet!

I want to share information about the Tidewater Air Monitoring Evaluation (TAME) project. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is conducting a study within two communities - Lambert's Point in Norfolk and the Southeast Community in Newport News. The study will collect data to measure and analyze toxic metals and other particulates in these designated areas. The goal is to reduce the health risks associated with dust from nearby coal storage and transportation facilities. As part of the TAME project, air-quality sensors are being placed throughout each community. The project wants to involve community members to host a sensor if they reside in either area. Grace Holmes, the DEQ Environmental Justice Coordinator, is the point of contact. She may be reached at (804) 718-8409 or you may go to the DEQ website to sign up.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/VADEQ/subscriber/new>

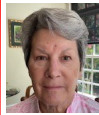


District Facebook Moderator

Kim Harrison, K4sons@gmail.com

Please send any posts for the District Facebook page to Kim Harrison at K4sons@gmail.com. Each post should include one or more images and the accompanying text you wish to share. You may also include contact information.

We welcome announcements of upcoming public events and updates on recently completed club activities. Sharing this information is an excellent opportunity for public relations, as it may attract membership inquiries and encourage participation in your events.



Health and Wellness

Chris Piascik, rpiascik@cox.net

The Alzheimer’s walks are over and hopefully many of you were able to “make the walk”. I know important dollars were raised. Here are some interesting facts about Alzheimer’s disease:

- Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's
- Between 2000-2021 deaths from Alzheimer's have more than doubled
- 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia
- Alzheimer's kills more than breast and prostate cancer combined
- More than 11 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with dementia
- In 2024 Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the US \$360 billion and by 2050 nearly 1 trillion!

We have a lot of work to do! Research is costly, but needed to provide new treatments. Keep the message of this disease in the forefront of your club activities.

Giving Tuesday was started in 2012 with the simple idea of a day that encourages people to do good! It is a global day of giving and is a charitable response to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and this year will be on December 3rd. There are many ways to give. It doesn’t have to be monetary, it can be an act that brings a smile to a person’s face, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people you care about, or giving some of what you have to those in need. The list of ideas is endless. The message here is that we continue with projects that reach as many individuals as we can. As an organization we have never been limited to one day..ours is an ongoing, **everyday** mission!



Communications and Public Relations

Sheila Blackwell, sbwbo2@gmail.com

Club newsletters are one of the most effective and efficient methods of informing GFWC members about projects, programs, events, partnerships, and issues.

District Newsletter Awards

Please submit a sample of your best club newsletter published in this calendar year to me at the above email address by January 25.



Fundraising and Development

Susan Franceschi, gbsf706@gmail.com

The Holiday season is here.

I hope everyone is ready for a busy Holiday season of fundraising for your club.

Fundraising during the holiday season can be filled with bazaars and sales of nuts and candy. Some clubs sell See's Candy's that come in holiday packing. There are bake sales and for the children, there is breakfast with Santa.

Hers is an example of a fundraiser from the fall district meeting:

Bunco Fundraiser

We use 8-foot tables and set them up in a square around the fellowship hall. Put ribbons across the table to divide it into 2 sections, 4 people to a section. You need 3 dice for each group of four. We found the easiest way to move people was to have those on the inside stay seated and those on the outside move one seat to the left when a bunco is called. As soon as “bunco” is called, ring a bell, and play stops. We had prizes for Most Buncos, Most Wins, Most Losses, and Last Bunco. You will need scorecards.

Go to [GFWC Top Ten Projects](#) for more fundraising ideas.



Legislation and Public Policy

Kim Diebler, deiblek0321@gmail.com

Since 1890, GFWC has been advocating for community-driven activism. With over 60,000 current members in 2300 clubs and over 100 years of making history, that's a lot of voices to be heard!

Human Trafficking has been called "the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time"! Highlighted on the GFWC.org advocacy tab is The Frederick Douglas (remember him from history?) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023. He escaped slavery in Maryland and became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in the 19th century. This measure has passed the House and is awaiting approval in the Senate. GFWC has co-signed a letter to the Senate in July 2024 that would authorize \$241 million EACH year from 2024 to 2028, to protect these victims.

GFWC has also supported a bill that was passed in July 2024 called the "Stopping Harmful Image Exploitation and Limiting Distribution" or the SHIELD Act, making it illegal to show private and intimate images online with the intent to cause harm to anyone. This Act is another layer to improve upon the Kids Online Safety Act. It has passed the Senate, but not the House. So, GFWC needs your help!

But don't take my word for it, you can read all the details on the GFWC.org website. Also listed are legislative actions taken on the National Strategy for Gender Equity and Equality, Global Vaccinations, Paid Family & Medical Leave, Alzheimer's & Dementia Project Act, and a host of other advocacy efforts falling under the "Violence Against Women Act" (VAWA). The money to be spent on these programs is astounding.

Finally, while you are on that website, go to the GET INVOLVED tab under ADVOCACY at the top menu, and lend your voice to the TEN actions listed. It takes just a few minutes to SEND your MESSAGE to each of these resolutions, in particular the Women's Suffrage Monument Location Act. The monument was approved in November 2023, in the House, but not in the Senate! So, tell your Senators it's time to act and we want it on the National Mall for all to see!

Legislative Action Center Sign Up. Click [here](#). On the right side, look for **Sign Up for Alerts**. Type in the requested information and click on the ➡. Enter information. Check the *Keep Me Subscribed to Alerts* and *Email Opt-in* blocks. Click on **SAVE**. You are all set. Check on the current issues and send your opinions directly to your own legislators.



Woman's History and Resource Center

Lynda Burton, lyndaseab@gmail.com

Happy Holidays to all and a very happy and healthy New Year! It is very hard to believe that 2025 is almost here and so is reporting. I look forward to receiving some very creative and interesting reports from all clubs. Last year's reports were amazing demonstrating some unique ways of focusing on and celebrating Women's History. Some significant ideas from our own clubs are as follows: Developing or maintaining club histories in a multitude of ways including yearbooks, scrapbooks, memory books, and videos; speakers addressing historical figures in our own community, local entrepreneurs telling their stories, and interviews with community leaders and first responders; presenting updates or histories of clubhouses and celebrations of club milestones; and Newsletters with history corners sharing member accomplishments, historical GFWC figures or bios on past Presidents and current members and their role in developing the club. The list is lengthy, but the common thread was to share this with membership!

As we plan for 2025, please remember that March is Women's History Month with the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations". This is so appropriate and celebrates the powerful influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership. Look within your own club and the accomplishments of your members! Every woman has a history and story to tell; tap into the resources within your amazing membership.

"Whoever doesn't know the past must have little understanding of the present and no vision for the future."
{author unknown} This sentence is so simple but says it all.





Historian

Lynn Sykes, laesykes123@gmail.com

A special thank you to Tidewater District President, Jane May for asking me to serve as the Tidewater District Historian during her administration. I am honored to serve and look forward to making new friends at the district level.

Nancy Vadersen invited me to a GFWC Great Bridge Woman’s Club General meeting in the Fall of 2015. I immediately joined the club based on its friendliness, and involvement in helping to build a better community for those in need. I became involved with all kinds of activities and eventually was nominated and voted to serve as the club’s Secretary, Vice President and President!

Considerations when writing a club history:

- When and where was the club founded? What year did the club join the General Federation of Women’s Clubs?
- Did the club change its name over the years? Is so, why? How did the name change?
- What major project/s did the club undertake over the course of its history? How long did the club work on these projects? What were the challenges and successes? How do these projects reflect the priorities and perspectives of their time and place?



Fannie Stearnes Scholarship

Marie Smith, bsmith343@cox.net

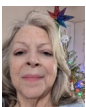


Bee Merry

Hi Ladies,

Academic Scholarships are the awards of intellect, effort, and unwavering dedication. It is a vote of confidence in the abilities of a student. I am happy to be involved with this District Scholarship which will be awarded to a student that has demonstrated excellence in academics and has contributed significantly to the life of the school. The deadline for the applications is still several months away but it is not too early to start getting the information out to students in your area. The information on the history and the guidelines for the scholarship as well as the application forms are located on pages 31-34 of the Tidewater Handbook 2024-2026. All applications must include a short letter from a Federated Woman’s Club acting as a sponsor. Enjoy this beautiful Fall!

Thank you.



Tidewater Presidents’ Council

Leslie Crandol, leslie@crandol.com



The Tidewater Presidents’ Council is a gathering of club women, NOT limited to club presidents, sharing news of club activities and accomplishments. The TPC meets on the third Thursday in the months of October, December, February, and May. We alternate locations between Southside and the Peninsula. The gathering begins at 11 a.m. with a social time. We begin our meeting, pause for lunch, and then conclude the meeting.

An invitation will be sent to club presidents in mid November to join us at Cypress Point Country Club.

Dues for the council are \$10 per club payable to Tidewater Presidents’ Council by January 25, 2025. Treasurer Julie Rogers will receive your dues.

Hope to see you on December 19.

As always, Take time to love the little things.

