***GFWC/Ohio Federation***

***Of Women’s Clubs***

***NEWSLETTER***

October 2020

**President’s message:**

Greetings to all my Ohio Sisters,

Fall is upon us and what a beautiful season. I’m looking out my window the sun is shining and the trees are vibrant in all the wonderful colors of the season. My back yard is covered with golden leaves from the large oak tree in my yard, it’s a sea of yellow. I hope everyone is able to take some time to enjoy this beautiful season and also staying safe.

The Fall Conferences are behind us and the districts presidents did a wonderful job. Elections were held and the Nominating Committee members were elected. Thank you to all the members who consented to serve on this committee. All the meetings were held via Zoom, except one. The officers missed traveling to the 5 districts and missed the opportunity to meet the members. I’m hoping to be able to travel as soon as this pandemic improves, which I hope is soon.

**The Great Lakes Region Conference** is scheduled for **October 24, at 10:00 a.m.** (**EDT)** with a social evening filled with conversation and games planned for October 23, at 8:00 p.m. (EDT). Sounds like fun! Don’t forget to register. You must be signed up in the **Member Portal** in order to register for the conference. If you have not registered, do so soon. I hope many of you will take advantage of this chance to attend a regional conference, it is a great way to get new ideas for your club. You don’t have to travel you can enjoy the conference from the comfort of your home and even wear your slippers.

**October is National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.** (WEAR PURPLE). Plan activities that brings awareness to your community. The Signature Program under GFWC International President Marian St. Clair has been broken down to eight categories: Intimate Partner Violence, Child Abuse, Teen Dating Violence, Campus Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Violence Against Native American, Military Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes.

Also, Purple Thursday is a national day of action each October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please show support on Thursday, October 22nd by wearing purple -- a color that has long been worn by women to seek justice. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about domestic, spousal, and teen dating violence. You can also show your support by sharing photos of yourself or your club and its members on the GFWC Ohio Facebook page.

**Advocates for Children:** Sunday, October 25 – Saturday October 31, 2020 is “GFWC Advocates for Children Week”.

**GFWC JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM SPECIAL AWARD** – STICK YOUR NECK OUT GFWC will honor all clubs that participate in this Challenge Project at the Annual Convention. The STICK YOUR NECK OUT AWARD certificates will be given to all clubs that undertake a project that directly benefits children during the fourth week of October. The Giraffe Award will be presented at the Junior Business Session of the GFWC Annual Convention in 2021 and 2022 to honor all State Federations that participate in the Challenge Project. Please find the submission form at the end of this newsletter.

Also, during October we need to remember National Breast Cancer Awareness Week, National Down Syndrome Awareness and World Food Day on October, 16th.

**Holiday Open House Reminder**: Plans are underway for the December 9, 2020, Headquarters Holiday Open House! This year’s theme is “What a Wonderful World!” At GFWC Headquarters, the theme will celebrate nature. The holiday colors will be peach, russet, plus a touch of cream and lots of glittery silver and gold, with many beautiful ornaments in the shape of birds (from humming birds to owls), adorable animals, snowflakes, pinecones, and other shapes found in nature. Of course, there will be lots of greenery throughout the house and sparkly white lights too. Each State Federation can contribute by sending one or two handmade or purchased ornaments, between 4 and 6 inches in size. Please do not label the ornament, as a small tag will be added to identify each state gift as it hangs on the tree. And please adhere to the color scheme—peach, russet, cream, silver, and gold, and send your contribution to Marjean Sizemore, 172 Jeffrey St. Wintersville, Ohio 43953, no later than November 10th. Since we were unable to meet at Convention and since we can only send two from Ohio the Board of Directors will vote on those submitted. A “President’s Prize” of $100 plus an award certificate will be given at the 2021 and 2022 GFWC Annual Conventions to the club that best interprets the official GFWC holiday theme. The official theme for 2020 is “What a Wonderful World” and for 2021 the theme is “Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy.” Clubs can interpret the theme in any way that fits a club-sponsored holiday event or project. More information can be found in the GFWC Club Manual.

**CLUB DUES:**

One of your most important tasks in the fall is sending your Treasurer’s Sheet, with your dues by October 10th for extra Honor Roll Points; If you have not sent in your dues by now you missed the extra Honor Points, but you still have time to meet the November 10th deadline, for Points. You should also send in reports during the year whenever your membership changes. Having correct membership data in a timely manner is significant for the smooth functioning of the GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs Board of Directors, as well as, for the accurate distribution of The Buckeye Magazine. Mail your membership sheet and your check to GFWC Ohio Treasurer, Deidra Devore, 9424 County Road 39, Bloomingdale, OH 43910. Instructions for the Treasurer Sheet and forms can be found in the 2020-2022 Directory.

**LEADS PROGRAM:**

GFWC/Ohio Federation of Women’s Clubs believes strongly in supporting the GFWC LEADS PROGRAM. The application is due to the State President by January 1, 2021, and 2022, along with your letter(s) of recommendation. The GFWC Ohio Board of Directors will then select the candidate at the Winter Board meeting. Send application to: Marjean Sizemore, 172 Jeffery Street, Wintersville, OH 43953 740-632-5814 (C) 740-264-3474 (H).

**Official CALL to the 2020 Annual Conference**

**GFWC Great Lakes Region**

“Patterns of GFWC”

Our 2020 Conference will be done remotely through GFWC BigMarker live webinar platform. You can enjoy this Conference from the comfort of your own home.

Saturday, October 24, 2020

9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (CST)

With a Social Evening through Zoom – Conversation - Games

Friday, October 23, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. (CST)

Registration Fee $35.00

Registration through GFWC Member Portal –

<https://www.gfwc.org/memberportal>

Registration Opens – Monday, August 24, 2020 through October 14, 2020

**Saturday – Agenda**

Call to Order – Welcoming Ceremony

GFWC Great Lakes Region Business

GFWC Chairmen Reports

GFWC Great Lakes Region – Memorial

GFWC Great Lakes Region Fundraising

GFWC President-elect Deb Strahanoski

Speaker – Michael Brandwein – “Patterns of Leadership”

GFWC Chairmen Reports

Keynote Speaker – GFWC International President Marian Simmons-St. Clair

GFWC Great Lakes Region State Presidents – Directors of Junior Clubs

Closing Ceremony

**Make your calendar and plan to attend – Register and you are ready!!!**

**FRIENDLY REMINDERS:**

* Make sure your club Treasurer submits your dues to GFWC Ohio Treasurer Deidra Devore by November 10, 2020.
* Be sure that all state membership contact information is updated as needed.
* Include State President Marjean Sizemore, [sizemore172@comcast.net](mailto:sizemore172@comcast.net) on your club mailing list for your club newsletter and program books. I love to know what you are planning.
* Encourage your officers, chairmen, and members to attend District Meetings, State Convention.
* Plan on attending the GLR Conference, being held virtually on October 24, 2020.
* Stay informed sign up for News and Notes and Legislative Action

**Stay safe and healthy,**

**Marjean Sizemore**

**GFWC Ohio President**