



# The Space Coast Comet

## 19th Amendment

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed by Congress on August 18, 1920 prohibiting the US and state governments from denying the right to vote to citizens of the US based on gender, giving women the right to vote. The passage of this amendment was the culmination of many years of women's suffrage. GFWC was important in the women's suffrage movement and the impact of our members created a lasting legacy. This month, our club is celebrating the contributions of GFWC members to the women's suffrage movement.



## New Club Logo

The GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club Board of Directors is proud to present our new club logo!

The logo was designed by a club member and a future booster club member. It was voted on by our club members and adopted by our Board of Directors in July 2023.

## Membership Meeting

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on September 6, 2023 at 10:00. We will be meeting at The Children's Hunger Project located at 26 Forrest Avenue in Cocoa. More information will be released soon!



# President's Message

Welcome to August! I hope you're having a wonderful summer. I just returned home from an amazing trip to Alaska. While in Sitka, I was excited to see the GFWC Sitka Woman's Club clubhouse. It reminded me that no matter where we go, our GFWC sisters are not far away. While geographically different, we all share the same goals of improving our community and working together in sisterhood to support those in need.

Our leadership team has been hard at work this summer planning the activities and projects for our upcoming club year. We've spent time learning about our positions and job descriptions, how to plan projects and events, developing fundraisers to help pay the bills while also donate to our favorite charities, and building our calendar to include fun activities to keep our members socially, mentally, and physically active. We've learned a lot about each other and the direction that we want to take our club.

GFWC and GFWC FL have many traditions, built on the history and leadership of the countless women that have come before us. Being a very new club, we are ready to write our own history and create our own traditions. Will we make mistakes? Of course...Success is no accident. It's hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and most of all, love. We love what we're doing! Our success relies on each member doing what they can, learning all they can, and supporting each other through the process. I'm looking forward to seeing what our club can accomplish in the upcoming club year!

~Sarah Anthony

*"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope."*

~Helen Keller



# 1st Vice-President's Message

Where did the summer go??? As we are all reading this the kids are almost back to school and the remaining quarters of 2023 are fast approaching. If time is moving that quickly that just means we are having FUN! I am the club's broken record and just want to remind everyone to send me your hours and donations.

If anyone is wondering why we do reports, they are a "diary" of our club's activities as well as the heart and soul of our history at a particular moment in time. They are also important as we compete for recognition and awards at the district, state, and international level of GFWC. As a new club in the federation, we will begin our new diary with lots of fun adventures and valuable information for future members and leaders of our club in moving forward.

Please continue to email your hours and donations to me each month. I look forward to capturing your part of our history!

~JoAnne Post



Our club will be participating in the GFWC National Day of Service.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Central Brevard Sharing Center and The Children's Hunger Project; Two very worthy organizations that serve Brevard County. Watch for more information!

# The General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Fight for Women's Suffrage

By Patricia Miller ([suffragistmemorial.org](http://suffragistmemorial.org))



The year 1914 was a critical moment for the women's suffrage movement. After more than a decade of languishing, the effort to secure a federal amendment to grant women the vote had sprung back to life the year before when a massive women's suffrage parade brought 10,000 women to Washington to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to demand the vote.

But the attention the suffrage parade generated would be of little use if it couldn't be transformed into widespread support for women's right to vote. Advocates of suffrage had long courted women active in the women's club movement, which represented millions of middle-class American woman, as key to their effort. When Carrie Chapman Catt succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1900, one of the first things she did was launch a "society plan" to recruit leaders of women's clubs to the suffrage cause, knowing that they were an important link to women in their communities.

But votes for women remained controversial. It wasn't until a number of western states granted women suffrage after 1910, the suffrage parade garnered national attention, and influential socialites like Alva Belmont threw their weight and money behind the cause that a federal amendment for women's suffrage gained real momentum. Official support of suffrage by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which was by far the largest and most vital woman's organization in the country, representing over one million women, would signal

that the suffrage movement had graduated from a once-radical dream to a mainstream cause.

Many important women associated with the GFWC had long been leaders in the suffrage movement, including Frances Willard, the head of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Julia Ward Howe, the famous author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. But only a majority vote of the representative delegates at the GFWC's biennial convention would give the movement the legitimacy it desperately needed. As of 1914, only 17 of the GFWC state federations had voted to support suffrage. Pro-suffrage resolutions had been blocked from coming to the floor at the past two conferences by a minority anti-suffrage faction, so the outcome was uncertain as the delegates headed to Chicago for the 1914 convention. The General Federation of Women's Clubs Magazine presented pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage arguments and the debate was heated.

GFWC President Anna Pennybacker was personally in favor of suffrage, saying that "the highest type of women must be interested in politics and all the vital questions of the day in order to fulfill her mission as a wife and mother." In Chicago, delegates heard from Carrie Chapman Catt on the "World Progress of Women." But it was still uncertain if a resolution in favor of suffrage would be presented for a vote. Then, the Illinois delegation took matters into its own hands and passed a resolution in favor of "political equality for men and women." Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York and Michigan quickly followed. Buoyed by the  
(Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.)

action, Pennybacker announced that a suffrage resolution would be introduced the next day.

On June 14, 1914, the GFWC approved a resolution stating, “The General Federation of Women’s Clubs give the cause of political equality for men and women its moral support by recording its earnest belief in the principle of political equality regardless of sex.”

The GFWC’s official endorsement of suffrage for women was major news. It affirmed that suffrage had become a mainstream cause for middle-class women from every part of the country. Over the next few years, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs Magazine kept members of the GFWC apprised of activities toward passage of a national suffrage amendment. By 1917, when scores of suffragists, including Alice Paul, were imprisoned at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton, Virginia, for picketing the White House to demand the right to vote, the magazine was a vital source of information for American women about the political and legislative strategies behind the fight for suffrage and portraits of women on the front lines of the battle. When the “Iron-Jawed Angels” were released after enduring months of brutalization, maggot-infested food and force-feedings, the public outcry about their treatment made the possibility of a federal suffrage amendment a reality. This turning point for women’s rights culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920.

Women’s suffrage may not have become a reality without the historic support of the GFWC. Today, women’s club members have an opportunity to help make history once again, by contributing to a national memorial to the heroic suffragists who secured the vote for women. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Lorton on the grounds of the former Occoquan Workhouse will commemorate the women who were imprisoned in a nonviolent revolution which brought about one of the greatest expansions of democracy in history. Many of these women, the inhumane conditions they faced, and their contributions to history have been all but forgotten. GFWC members can ensure that their names, and their contribution to history, are memorialized in time for the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in 2020.



## Legislative Action Center

“The Legislative Action Center (LAC) is a powerful tool for GFWC’s public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.” (GFWC.org)

According to the GFWC Standing Rules, “Member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions.” Clubs and clubwomen are the local advocates for GFWC’s legislative agenda. It is through the national network of grassroots advocates that the Federation gains its political influence.

Several of our club members have joined the Legislation Action Center and added our voices to other in the Federation. To join, please visit the [LAC webpage](#).

To learn more, please visit the [GFWC website](#).

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)

## Arts & Culture CSP

Chairman: Available

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial located in southern Fairfax, Virginia within the Occoquan Regional Park. Dedicated in 2021, the memorial “honors the millions of suffragists who fought more than seven decades to win the vote for women.” The objective of the memorial is to educate, inspire, and empower generations to continue the quest for liberty, freedom, and equal rights.

You can visit the memorial virtually by visiting [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org). To visit in person, the park is free and open year-round.

## Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Chairman: Available

Do you regularly exercise your 19th Amendment right? Are you confused about when to vote or have questions about the voting process? Do you want to learn more about the issues and how your vote affects the outcome?

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The [League of Women Voters of the Space Coast](#) is a wonderful resource for our club members. We encourage you to use this resource as you head to the polls or while you research your next vote.



## GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Chairman: Taylor Malishenko

Our club is a proud supporter of Serene Harbor and the work that they do to support survivors of domestic violence. They are having a few fundraisers this fall to raise money to continue the work that they do. Visit their [website](http://sereneharbor.org) (sereneharbor.org) to learn more, register, or donate.

- October 11: Purses with a Purpose
- November 4: Chipping In to End Domestic Violence Golf Tournament

Serene Harbor presents the anticipated return of  
with a Purpose  
WEDNESDAY  
October 11 2023  
10:30am to 2pm • Space Coast Convention Center  
Vendors | Raffles | Silent & Live Auction  
The event where networking and shopping unite to achieve a greater purpose!

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



## Education & Libraries CSP

Chairman: Sally Kramer

### **The Fierce Female Librarians Who Delivered Books on Horseback During the Great Depression** By Rose Heichelbeck

In the middle of the Great Depression, America was grappling with not only the tightening of just about every single household budget, but the nation was also poorly connected. At the time most rural areas were without basic services like electricity and running water. As such, these remote areas were often devoid of public institutions like libraries. Some of the most isolated areas were nestled in the Appalachian area of Kentucky, among other locations. One of the many public programs initiated by FDR's New Deal was the Works Progress Administration, which funded the Pack Horse Library Initiative. The project hired fierce "book women" (and occasionally men) who were fearless, who loved reading, and who were highly proficient on horseback for the job.

These books are about The Kentucky Pack Horse Librarians: "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" and "The Book Woman's Daughter" both by Kim Michele Richardson.

I have read both of these books and they are my new favorites. These are books I will keep and read again and again. I hope that if you are looking for a good read you will give these books a try.

#### **BOOK CLUB**

Our club is starting a book club! The first meeting will be an organizational meeting to decide when and where we will meet. Everyone is welcome to join us!

**Monday, August 14, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Sally's house** (address in the directory)



## Environment CSP

Chairman: Nancy Brown

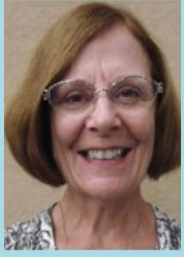
I hope that everyone is making the best of our Florida summer. We have had a lot of sunshine and lots of rain – I know that my Florida native garden plants are very happy. And because the plants are doing so well, I have had many different birds taking up residence in the trees around my house. I truly enjoy the early morning and late afternoon songs.

Start collecting used corks (natural and synthetic) and bring them to any of our general meetings. The Cork Club funded by Widget Co. collects corks and donates \$0.02 per natural cork and donates the money to forest and ocean conservation. They recycle the synthetic cork. I will have more information to share at our next meeting. Be sure to ask your friends and neighbors to also start collecting corks. This is such a simple way to keep corks out of the landfills.

## August Environmental Fun Fact:

Do you know what a keystone species is? It is a species (animal, plant, insect, etc.) that has a disproportionately large effect on its environment. An example of a keystone species is the gopher tortoise. Gopher tortoise burrows are up to 45 feet long and provide shelter for gopher tortoises and hundreds of other species. Oak trees are also a keystone species harboring over 390 different caterpillar species. Two keystone plants in Brevard County are Goldenrod (solidago) and Sunflower (helianthus). The presence of a keystone species signifies a healthy environment.

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



## Health & Wellness CSP

Chairman:  
Linda Greenstein

August is National Wellness Month. This observance encourages each of us to prioritize self-care, stress management and healthy routines for the next 31 days. Anything you do to take care of yourself so you can stay physically, mentally and emotionally well will be helpful. Learning simple coping skills will combat the negative impacts of daily stressors. Adding small tweaks to your daily routines can create a more wholesome habit. Check out [15 Ways to Celebrate National Wellness Month](#) and AARP's [60 Ways to Live Longer, Stronger and Better](#). I plan to use at least one idea each day throughout August. Won't you join me?

Our 12 GFWC Space Coast - COMETS beat our 1,200 mile challenge for July by over 100 miles in support of The REACH Institute! Our August

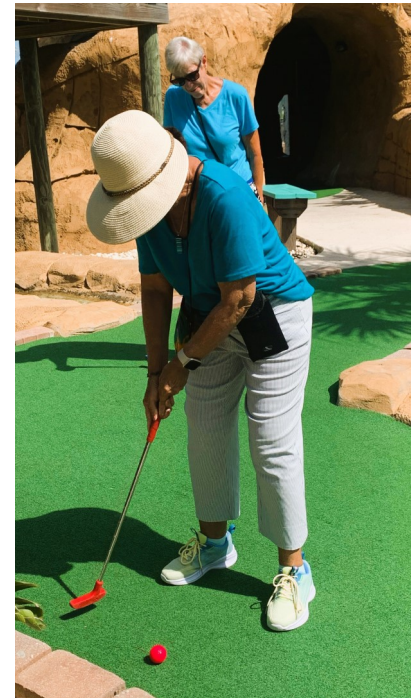
charity is the Fighting Blindness Foundation, an organization that is "funding translational research and clinical trials of gene therapy that have restored vision in patients who were virtually blind from childhood from a form of retinitis pigmentosa. Thanks to the treatment, they can now enjoy some of life's simple joys, like reading and playing baseball." We blast off on August 1st for a 1,400 mile challenge.

Five club members met at Suseda Park for a fun hour of walking and talking. We totaled 5 hours and 10 miles. Join us for our next Walk and Talk on Tuesday, August 8th. We'll meet at 8:30 am in the Avenues at Bed, Bath and Beyond's corner, across from Panera. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes, slather on the sunscreen, and bring some water. Some walkers might want to have a late breakfast at Panera after the walk. Hope to see you there!

Our September meeting will be at The Children's Hungry Project's facility at 26 Forest Ave. Cocoa, FL 32922. Please bring your pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and your old eyeglasses for the Lions Clubs International Recycle for Sight.



Photos from our mini-golf outing to celebrate Social Wellness month.





# GFWC History

May Mann Jennings served as GFWC Florida president from 1914 to 1917. The following is from the GFWC Florida biography by Laura Connelly.

Though born in New Jersey on April 25, 1872, she quickly relocated to Florida just two years later. The family settled in the Crystal River area, establishing themselves in Brooksville. May's mother died when she was only nine, and both May and her younger sister were sent to the St. Joseph's Convent in St. Augustine for their education. May was valedictorian of her class and graduated in 1889.

Her father was Florida State Senator Austin Mann, and May went to Tallahassee to serve as an aide to her father. She was responsible for his appointments, correspondence, and hosting social events. May met Judge William Sherman Jennings in their home. William followed them back to Tallahassee and the two were married on May 12, 1891. May is credited in some circles with William's meteoric rise within the state Democratic party, due to her knowledge of state politics and her vast network of relationships throughout the state among the Florida Federation of Women's Club members. She was obviously no stranger to politics.

May was a prominent leader in the women's club movement, serving as president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs from 1914-1917, and then as Florida director and vice president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1918-1920. She was a co-founder of the Florida State League of Women Voters, and was active in a number of civic organizations as well as social and political groups. May championed a number of causes that she believed needed the public's attention. She was an early conservationist and used her platform as president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs to have Royal Palm State Park established in 1915. She was appointed to the Everglades National Park Commission in the late 1930s, and pushed for the creation of a national Everglades Park. During her time in the Governor's mansion [Her husband served as Florida State Governor from 1901-1905.] she was affec-

tionately labeled "Mother of Forestry." In addition to conservation, she was an advocate for the Seminole Indians, women's rights and suffrage, prohibition, child welfare, education, and public health.

Following their time in the Governor's mansion they moved to Jacksonville, which was Florida's largest city at the time, and Governor Jennings established a law practice. They also had a farm close to Middleburg, and owned timber in Clay County. He died in 1920. She lived a life of caring for others and concern for the community, until that the age of 90, on April 24 1963, May Mann Jennings was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida.





# August Events

## August 8:

8:30 am—Walk & Talk  
The Avenues (near Bed, Bath & Beyond)

## August 14:

1:00 pm—Book Club Meeting  
Sally K's house

## August 16:

10:00 am— Board of Directors Meeting  
Zoom

## August 19:

10:00 am—Summer Social  
Viera E. Resident's Clubhouse

# What We're Collecting

This is a list of on-going collections for items that will be donated to various organizations in our area.

- **Pull-tabs** (soda & soup can tabs) - will be donated to Ronald McDonald House charities. (Health & Wellness)
- **Eyeglasses** - will be donated to the Lions Club. (Health & Wellness)
- **Bottle corks** (wine & champagne) — will be sent to Widget Co. (The Cork Club) for recycling. (Environment)

More items will be added as projects are developed.

# Membership

Would you like to volunteer with us? We love our members and we would love to have you join our club.

To learn more, please visit our [website](#).

# Contact Us!

To contact any member of our club's leadership team, please email us at:

[gfwspacecoast@gmail.com](mailto:gfwspacecoast@gmail.com)

Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

