



The Space Coast Comet

gfwcspacecoastwc.org



2024 GFWC FL Convention

Our club was well represented at the 2024 GFWC Florida Convention April 12-15th. Eight members attended for all or part of the 4-day event, celebrating the 2022-24 Florida State President, Linda O'Toole and ushering in the new 2024-26 President, Sara Dessureau. The weekend also included elections of the GFWC FL executive committee, votes on bylaw changes, workshops, the arts and crafts contest, and awards. The speaker at the Saturday lunch spoke about the leadership qualities of the US First Ladies and how they compare to the leadership qualities of GFWC Clubwomen. We also honored our district Volunteer of the Year and our club's LEADS candidate. It was a wonderful weekend full of friendship, fun, and preparing for the future.

Please plan to attend the next GFWC Florida event: Fall Board of Director's Meeting September 27-29th in Orlando!



2024-25 Dues Are Due!

Club dues for the 2024-25 club year are due to our club Treasurer, Susan M. no later than Friday, May 31. Dues remain \$53.00 for this year, and may be paid by check or Zelle.

If you joined in December 2023 or anytime in 2024, you do not have to pay dues for this year. You will need to pay dues in May of 2025.

Please contact Susan M. or Sarah A. if you have any questions.

Newsletter

This will be the final issue of our newsletter for this club year. The next issue will come out on September 1st.

Please watch your email and the website for any news or volunteer opportunities that may occur during the summer months.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please send those to President Sarah for consideration.

Don't forget that you can read all of our past newsletters on [our website!](#)



President's Message

Dear Members,

It's time to celebrate! When we started this club a year ago, full of hope, energy, ideas, and yes, a little bit of apprehension, we had no idea where the journey would take us. Would people join us? Would we be able to pay our bills? Would we be successful? The first two were pretty easy...of course people would want to be a part of our good works. Of course we can pay our bills if we keep our expenses low and focus on our mission of volunteer service. The last one, well that was a bit more tricky. You see, success can only be measured by **us**. Success looks different to every club and the measuring stick isn't the same for every club. The measure of our success has always been to be better than the day/week/month before. Can we say that we did our absolute best? I'm proud to say that we can! We gave it our all this year and we can celebrate a job well done!

Looking ahead to the next two years, I see us all continuing down the path we set for our club: improving the world around us through volunteer service. But we won't stop there. We'll recruit new members, find creative ways to serve our community, and support GFWC and GFWC Florida initiatives and projects. There's more exciting things to come!

~Sarah Anthony

"Celebrate what you've accomplished, but raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed."

— Mia Hamm



1st Vice-President's Message

Dear Members,

Spring convention was amazing. Congratulations to US!! Our club received 9, that's right, a total of 9 recognitions this year! Eight GFWC Florida awards for Category 1, as well as recognition for having 100 or more points on the Honor Score. Category 1 clubs are those with 1-26 paid members as of December 31, 2023.

1st Place—Environment CSP

1st Place – Women's History & Resource Center (Area of Advancement)

2nd Place – Membership

2nd Place – ESO

2nd Place – GFWC Signature Program – Domestic Violence

3rd Place – Communications/Public Relations

3rd Place – Leadership

3rd Place – Health & Wellness CSP

3rd Place – Newsletter

Those in attendance cheered loudly when our club name was announced as we were so proud to be recognized by the state. Now bear in mind, we are less than one year old just imagine next year when we are almost two – we will have no terrible two tantrums!!!

Enjoy the summer and look forward to hearing about everyone's summer adventures when we meet in September.

~JoAnne Post

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Arts & Culture

Chair: Available

Our club has accepted the duties of hosting the February 2025 District 6 Meeting, which is the Arts & Crafts Contest. Over the summer we will begin planning for this event, which will be held on Friday, February 21, 2025. This will require “all hands on deck” to make this a creative and artistic event for our district clubs. As host club we are responsible for location, food, decorations, and judges for the contest. If you would like to help on this committee, please contact Sarah A.

We hope that you have started your arts and crafts projects to enter into the Arts & Crafts Show! Our club’s show will be in January, but projects must be finished by December 31, 2024, so you only have EIGHT more months to finish your projects!

Did you know that GROUP projects may also be entered into the show?



Civic Engagement & Outreach

Chair: Available

May is National Water Safety Month. This month serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of water safety practices. Whether it's swimming in pools, lakes, or oceans, water activities bring joy and relaxation, but they also pose risks if precautions aren't taken. This month encourages individuals to learn essential water safety skills, such as swimming and CPR, and promotes awareness of drowning prevention measures. By educating communities and promoting responsible behavior around water, Water Safety Month aims to reduce accidents and ensure that everyone can enjoy aquatic activities safely.

For parent and consumer resources and for more information, please visit the National [Water Safety Month website](#).



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Chair: Taylor Malishenko



In May we plan to provide Serene Harbor domestic violence shelter with generic Mother’s Day Cards and flowers along with needed household items. We will send out a note on how we will collect any donations prior to May 10.

The list of needs are as follows: pantry Items, paper towels, toilet paper, dishwasher pods, trash bags, dish soap, hand soap, laundry detergent, soap/body wash, gas cards, gift cards (Uber, Publix, Wal-Mart, Target), cleaning supplies (Lysol, Bleach, Fabuloso). These items are used

daily and donations of these items help Serene Harbor help more women and children.

Watch for an email for more information on how you can drop off your donations.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call or text Serene Harbor’s 24/7 confidential hotline: 321-726-8282 (TTY).

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Education &
Libraries



Chair: Sally Kramer

Community Libraries

Having funded over 474 public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries in the 1930s, The American Library Association credited GFWC with establishing 75% of America's public libraries. In the 21st century, librarians continue to be an important part of our communities, demonstrated by a survey in which 90% of Americans, ages 16 and older, said the closing of their local public library would have an impact on their community.

Our club is playing an important part in supporting libraries in our community. Our **Little Free Library** has arrived! JoAnne Post lead the campaign and asked Juniper Landscaping to fund this project, which they were more than willing to do. President Sarah will stain the library and add the special door knob donated by Tiny Butler. Taylor Malishenko is donating the post and she is ready to install it with the help of some of our Boosters. On May 16th, Taylor will attach the library to the post, we will fill it with books and it will be open for business! We hope you will join us for this exciting event.

GFWC Affiliate Focus

GFWC is proud to work side-by-side with a number of dynamic and impactful organizations. Together, we work to improve our communities and better our world.



For more than six decades, GFWC has supported **UNICEF**, the United Nations Children's Fund, in its efforts to ensure the world's most vulnerable children have access to health, and immunization, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency and disaster relief, and more.

Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will be on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm. At Nancy Brown's home, the address is in our directory. We will be discussing the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

All members are welcome.

ESO

Summer is the perfect time to join ESO and start reading! Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita paying GFWC federated club members. Over 60 years ago, the ESO program became a permanent part of the GFWC Education Department. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. Many GFWC clubwomen have profited from this unique self-improvement program, seen as vital by the members it directly benefits. To join, visit the [GFWC Florida website!](#)

GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club, Inc.

JOIN US FOR THE
OPENING OF OUR
**LITTLE
FREE
LIBRARY!!**

Thursday, May 16, 2024
9:00 AM
Eastwood Park
6256 - 6306 Trieda Drive
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Environment

Chair: Nancy Brown



Thank you to all club members who participated in the Beach Clean up on Saturday, April 6th . It was a beautiful day to enjoy the beach and we all did our part to help to protect the sea turtles who nest along our shoreline in Brevard County.

Nine members participated in our Earth Day walk at Hundred Acre Hollows. We were joined by Board of Director members Bert Alm and Anita Unrath as well as wildlife photographer, Val Alm. Bert, Val and Anita provided us with a wealth of information about this nature preserve in our backyard. The day was a little cool and cloudy so we did not see any gopher tortoises (it is estimated that over 300 are living there) but we did see many burrows.

Hundred Acre Hollows has Sunset in the Hollows every Sunday evening. Here is the schedule for May and June: May 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 5:30 to 7:30. June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:00 to 8:00. The address is 1170 Rock Springs Drive.

May Environmental Tip:

There are some very simple things that we can all do to provide habitat for the next generation of bees and insects. Over the coming months, I will provide some examples of things that we can all do to protect our natural world in our backyards. One simple thing that we can do is to plant native plants. Plants, animals, and insects have a symbiotic relationship – they help each other to survive and thrive. Native plants, provide food and shelter to other living creatures native to our area. I will be sending out an invitation soon, to any of you who are interested to visit the native plant gardens that are in my backyard.



Health & Wellness

Chair: Linda Greenstein



Each month, I have chosen the charity for our COMETS to support for Charity Miles. This month, you will get the chance to choose the charity that tugs on your heart. I will be supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in memory of my sister, Susan, who died a few weeks before her 22nd birthday from Hodgkin's Disease. Let's see how many different charities we choose and how many miles we accumulate.

On Wednesday, May 8th, we will be creating affirmation jars for a gift for the ladies and moms at Serene Harbor. We'll meet in the Sandpiper Room at Heritage Isle from 2pm-4pm. Let me know if you plan to join the fun by May 5th so I can call the gate guard to let you into the community. PLEASE BRING SCISSORS!!

We will be collecting donations for The Children's Hunger Project 2024 Spring Wish List at our May membership meeting and at the Affirmation Jar get-together. I will deliver our items at our last packing event on Tuesday, May 14th. The three GFWC Woman's Clubs packing with us have been invited to participate in this Supply Drive. The suggested donations are on the next page of this newsletter.

Our next Walk and Talk will be on May 15th starting at 8:30 am at Don Griffin Trail located at 960 Cogswell Street (North of McKnight Family Sports Complex) in Rockledge. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring some water and don't forget your sunscreen. Hope to see lots of you there!!

We will be assembling brochures for Healthy Start later in May at the UF/IFAS Extension building. I will have a sign-up sheet with all the information at our membership meeting on Wednesday, May 1st . Continued on page 7...

Health & Wellness CSP Continued...

Don't forget to bring your pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald's House and your unnecessary glasses for the Lion's Recycle for Sight.



TCHP 2024 SPRING WISH LIST

Cleaning Supplies

- 13 gallon Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- 55 gal. Drum Trashcan Liners
- Clorox Wipes

Office Supplies

- 20ft x 1 ½ in Roll of Industrial Strength Velcro
- Loctite Extreme Hold Glue
- Printer Paper (8.5x11)
- Paper Towels
- Scotch Thermal Laminating Sheets Letter Size

Organizational Supplies

- 6-quart plastic storage bins with lids
- 45- Quart Clear Plastic Storage bins with lids
- 66- Quart Clear Plastic Storage bins with lids
- 40 -Gallon Large Storage totes with lids

Landscaping Supplies

- Bags of Red Mulch
- Assortment of Perennial Flowers (Full Sun)
- Indoor Plant Potting Soil
- 20in x 20in Large Flowerpots

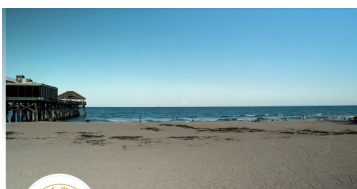
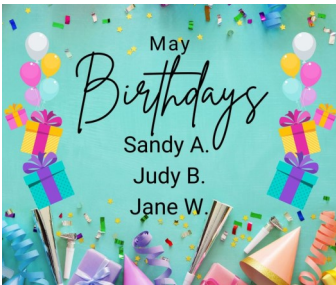
The Children's Hunger Project 26 Forrest Ave. Cocoa, FL 32922 321-610-1900

GFWC Advancement Areas

Membership

Chair: Available

We wish all of our members with summer birthdays a very happy birthday and many more to come!



GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club, Inc.
14 likes · 35 followers

Have you “liked” and “followed” our Facebook page?

Follow us for reminders and information.

Be sure to “share” our page and posts to inform others!

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes...

We will be updating our website and directory this summer. Please send any updated contact information as well as a new headshot (if desired) to Sarah A. by June 15th.

If you have any ideas for the website, please send them to Sarah A. as well.

Things to report this month:

- Did you attend and club, district, state, or committee meeting or attend a webinar in April?
- Did you purchase any donations for Camp Boggy Creek?
- Did you attend/join the book club? Did you join ESO? How many hours did you read? Did you purchase this month's book club book?
- Did you save any corks, pull-tabs, or eye-glasses? Report max 1 hour per project.
- Did you walk or run for Charity Miles? How much time? How many miles?
- Did you attend the Sea Turtle beach clean-up?
- Did you participate in the Walk & Talk?
- Did you register for the Legislative Action Committee?
- Did you attend the Hundred Acre Hollow event?
- Report all volunteer hours (including driving time and miles—except for membership meetings)
- Report all dollars and in-kind donations made to the club or to club-sponsored organizations.

You may report your hours online or via email to JoAnne. If you have questions about online reporting, please contact JoAnne for assistance.

GFWC Advancement Areas

Leadership

Chair: Sarah Anthony

In the September newsletter, we outlined the seven acts of “everyday” leaders: commit, listen, communicate, be humble, innovate, learn, and SMILE!

This month we will focus on **learn**. “If you are human, you have failed. Failure, however, is not an end to the story, it is a beginning. The trick is to “Fail Forward.” What did you learn, and what will you change next time? Then, you get back up and keep moving forward. Failure is an everyday leader’s protein; it is where the energy comes from.” (GFWC Manual)

Did you know that GFWC provides leadership training? “Some may talk about being born leaders, but most of us learn how to be a strong leader, and we should never stop learning and stretching. Just as “management” as a philosophy has evolved through the years into “leadership,” there has also been a growing realization that leadership development involves personal growth and improvement and influencing and fostering others.”

GFWC has developed a “Leadership Toolkit” that is available to all members in the Member Portal (gfwc.org) and GFWC Florida has many webinars available online for you to continue your leadership education.

ESO has identified a number of books that were selected to be beneficial to club members. There are also websites, Ted Talks, and podcasts to aid you on your leadership journey. If you would like a list of any or all of these, please contact President Sarah for assistance.

Legislation & Public Policy

Chair: Available

Have you joined the GFWC Legislative Action Committee (LAC)?

In accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, GFWC often joins other national organizations to urge congressional or federal agency action on a particular matter. These letters, in addition to individual clubwomen contacting their members of Congress directly through the Legislative Action Center, result in a national network of grassroots advocates working together to improve the lives of club members, their communities, our nation, and the global community.

Sign up for the [Legislative Action Center](#), a powerful tool to alert you to GFWC’s public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative and take action on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions.

After you sign up for the LAC, please include it in your monthly report to JoAnne so that we can keep track of how many club members have joined.



May Events

May 1 :

10:30 am—Membership Meeting
Sandpiper Room
Heritage Isle

May 8 :

2:00 pm —Affirmation Jars
Sandpiper Room
Heritage Isle

May 15:

8:30 am—Walk & Talk
Don Griffin Trail
960 Cogswell St., Rockledge

May 16:

9:00 am—Little Free Library Opening
Eastwood Park
6256 Trieda Drive

May 20:

1:00 pm—Book Club
Nancy B's
(address in directory)

TBD:

TBD—Healthy Start Packet Assembly

*We look forward to seeing you at our
events this month!*

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) — for our fundraiser.
- **Books**—for our Little Free Library (Education & Libraries)

More items will be added as projects are developed. To donate, please **contact our club.**

Contact Us!

Email: gfwcspacecoast@gmail.com

Phone: 321-446-8941

Website: gfwcspacecoastwc.org

