



GFWC MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION TOPICS

A Newsletter for Clubwomen



GFWC MA is a proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

2023 Spring Issue



Darlene Coutu, Editor
topics@gfwcma.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	2
Message from the Director of Junior Membership	3
Legislation & Public Policy	4-5
News You Can Use!	6-9
Club Happenings	10-16
CALL TO ANNUAL CONVENTION	17-18
Dates to Remember	19

FLASH BACK!



GFWC

2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

GFWC Massachusetts was well represented at the GFWC International Convention in Omaha, Nebraska that took place just thirteen years ago from June 12 through June 15, 2010. GFWC MA attendees pictured with Missy McCoy, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs and Rose Ditto, GFWC International President. Left to right in the Second Row are Donna Shibley (GFWC MA Director of Junior Clubs), Dorothy Graham (GFWC Parliamentarian), Sheila Shea (GFWC Recording Secretary), and Mary Baird (GFWC MA President); Third Row: June McSweeney, Shirley Gomes, Laura Coppola, June Alfano, and Mary Ann Pierce; Fourth Row: Alberta Durfee, Nancy Johnson, and Lorraine Gorham; Fifth Row: T Jablanski, Lynne Sullivan, and Jean Hartka; and Last row: Nancy Clark, Jeanette Shaw, and Rosalie Dialessi.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT, T JABLANSKI



It's March madness around here. Oh no, not the basketball kind, the federation kind.

We have been busy getting your club reports ready for our GFWC International Convention in Louisville Kentucky. Many thanks to Jen Nowak and Terry Rouvalis for their many hours of work preparing these reports.

We have an **Open House / Spring Reveal on Earth Day, April 22, 2023**, 11:00 am – 2:00pm. Elected

local officials, neighbors and club women are all invited. Federation Memorial Forest history will be shared, we will go on a hiking trail tour, we will feature

Massachusetts Federation Brag & Boast display and refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there.

Annual Convention is a day of celebrating, recognizing and rewarding all of the works you and your members do for your communities, and the Annual Convention planning meeting with the Women's Club and Junior Membership officers was very productive. "*The Legacy of Leadership*" convention will be held on **May 6, 2023** at the **Courtyard Marriott Natick**. We will be supporting the Central MA YWCA family shelter, with donations of travel mugs, totes, & tampons (period products). Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

The Worcester County Beekeepers Association has been a leader in beekeeping education for 122 years and we are excited to hear from one of its members, Ken Warchol, Worcester County Bee Inspector at our **Federation Day at the Forest, May 20**. Be sure to keep reading your TOPICS for more information on this event.

We are also excited to continue with the very successful president's project auction at this year's Fall Meeting and the theme will be "**An Auction Worthy of You**". The monies raised will be awarded in mental health grants to clubs. The grant applications will be available in September on our website, www.gfwama.org

And lastly, we have been busy working with our CPA, accountants Dubrey, Culliton and Assoc. and the IRS on our club's tax-exempt statuses. More information will be coming soon, as we work on procedures and processes for our clubs.

It's been a very productive few months and I thank all the board members who make our federation business possible.

Spring is a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be and in the words of the Beatles, "*Here comes the sun, and I say, It's alright*".

In Federation,



KNOW YOUR WORTH



FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP, MARISA JABLANSKI



In the December issue of TOPICS, I asked each of your Junior clubs to STAND TALL AND PROUD of the work you had all done in your communities in the last year and, wow, did you deliver! 761 projects were reported on this past year. 761 times you stepped up to help your communities. Clubs stocked food pantries, filled the shelves at women's shelters, held recycling events, paid out thousands in scholarships, held dozens of fundraisers, and so much more. Here are the total statistics that were reported from thirteen Junior Clubs:



761 projects. 40,910 volunteer hours. \$104,661 raised. \$81,115 donated. \$87,780 in kind donations. \$19,177 spent.

This is an increase across the board from 2021. To say this Director is PROUD is an understatement. The work each of you do in your communities is remarkable. You are changing and improving lives every day with the work that you do.

As we finally settle into March, which is seemingly living up to its name of "coming in like a lion", here's something to look forward to this spring: our Annual Convention! This year, we will spend time celebrating not only the accomplishments of our clubs during the last year, but also celebrate our leaders. They are not only the leaders within our clubs, some who have been leading for years, and some who are just starting to emerge, but also the leaders who came before us, who have helped shape our organization into the success it is today. We are fortunate this year to have GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Moydell, attending our Annual Convention. I'm looking forward to STANDING TALL AND PROUD with each of you as we brag and celebrate our accomplishments. I hope to see many of you this May. Please check out the call to Annual Convention in this issue of TOPICS and register today.



Easter is April 9!

Have you considered doing some early shopping? Are you looking for a tasty holiday gift?

GFWC Massachusetts has a webstore with **Terri Lynn Fundraising**.

You can support our state fundraising by purchasing these premium nuts, gourmet confections, and sweet and savory snack mixes.

Everything you buy gets shipped right to your door, and a portion of every sale goes directly to support GFWC MA.

A yummy way to support GFWC MA.

<https://gfwc-massachusetts.terri Lynn.com>

LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

Martha Casassa, Chairman

During January and February the GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Committee offered six webinars titled: *The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series*. Its goal was to educate members about advocacy – what it is, how you can participate, and why it is SO important to GFWC. Each of us has immense power to make a difference individually, but when teamed up with others, we can be incredible. The webinar covered: Elements of Advocacy, LAC is for Me, Legislation and Leadership and three Partners Toward Progress segments presented by our affiliates: Shot@Life, Hope for Justice, Canine Companions, Heifer International, UNICEF, March of Dimes, and St. Jude.

Basically, each webinar offers a glimpse into an aspect of GFWC advocacy with which members can interact and support a position that is in line with GFWC's Resolutions or supports one of our partner organizations whose mission aligns with our priorities. Advocacy goes beyond politically/legislatively oriented activities. If you are passionate about something and try to get others to adopt your view, you are advocating!! Easy, isn't it? Each of us already supports GFWC. You are likely already advocating. This webinar series explains how to focus and expand your efforts. Those who pre-registered for the webinars received the recordings the week after. If you did not register, the recordings will be available to the general membership sometime after the last presentation on February 23.

Successful advocacy has 3 steps:

Identify the need – GFWC Resolutions, our affiliates, legislation identify needs. Your club project concepts arise due to an identified need.

Do your homework – educate yourself in depth about the need. This is a critical step to be able to successfully advocate. The GFWC Member Portal/Digital Library and affiliate websites are key resources for this.

Take action – this can be as simple as responding to a LAC alert or calling your state or national legislators about an issue or more involved such as having a Letter to the Editor published, generating a social media campaign, or meeting with elected officials/their staff.

As your chairman, I add a 4th – Follow-up. Be persistent using various means of communication (e.g., email, calls, letters, social media, visits) sharing a consistent message. Advocacy is rarely a one and done activity.

Did you hear about the LAC (Legislative Action Center)? Hope you have and signed up. The series showed there is a LOT more to the LAC than just reacting to alerts. Members can see legislation pending in their state. You can explore how legislators voted via a scorecard. You can communicate with other elected officials in your state. Through the LAC a state alert can be sent to all members of our state if an action is needed. ALERT ALERT - there is an updated LAC platform. GFWC recommends signing up again because not everyone was transferred to the new platform.

Debra Bryant, president of Unified Solutions and our GFWC Public Policy Consultant, works to coordinate initiatives of GFWC Resolutions with White House goals. This helps drive opportunities for us as members to advocate for GFWC's priorities at the national level of government.

Continued on page 5

GFWC partners with like-minded organizations – our affiliates. They bring the policy development expertise. We bring the numbers for grass roots advocacy. This is one reason GFWC needs every member signed up for the LAC...and taking action. Don't just sign up. Participation doesn't stop there. *Take action on alerts – every one* (unless you personally disagree with the alert). GFWC tracks member activity – not

LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY

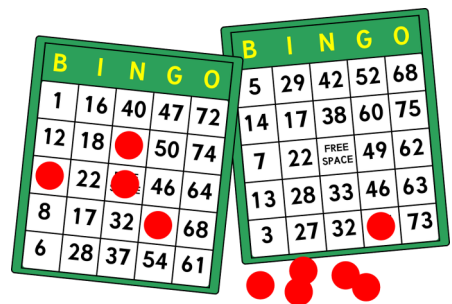
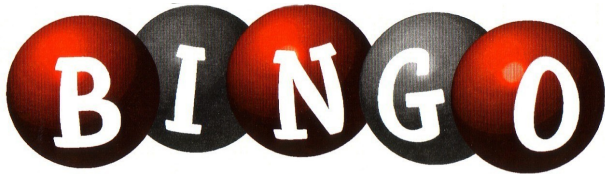
Continued from page 4

just sign-up. In fact they know the % of members acting vs the number signed up. The higher that % the better for GFWC. This metric is key to supporting GFWC to do what it does. The affiliates want to know how active we are. Activity is very important.

Affiliates want GFWC members to use their websites as resources. They want us to visit them rather than trying to post on GFWC. So – need affiliate info? Check their website.

Intrigued? Curious? Want to know more? As your state chairman, I will be happy to answer any questions. Think advocacy is a meeting topic? Let me know so I can get your club excited about it!!

Together We Advocate for Those in Need



GFWC Massachusetts WALL OF LEADERS Contest



- *Is there a woman in your club that has taken on her first leadership role?*
- *Is there a woman in your club that has stepped up to be an officer?*
- *Is there a woman in your club who is serving on State Board for the first time?*

Let's highlight these amazing women, who are showing their worth and standing tall and proud for GFWC MA and Junior Membership!

The contest is to create a poster (not to exceed 22" x 28") to highlight one member from your club who is a **new leader**.

On the poster you should include the following information:

- Name and Picture of Member
- Name of Club
- Years of service to GFWC
- New Leadership position
- Reason for joining GFWC
- Favorite Club Project
- A Quote the Member is known for
- 3 of her Favorite Things

Questions: Contact Alicia Sheridan ~ aliciasheridan01@gmail.com) and/or/ Elizabeth McKeon ~ elizabethmccurley@gmail.com

Please bring your completed posters to GFWC MA Annual Meeting in May 2023
for display and to enter to win a fabulous prize :)

GENERAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS
FEDERATION DAY
AT

MEMORIAL FOREST,
SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 20TH, 2023

COMMENCING AT 1PM

WITH

GUEST SPEAKER

KEN WHARCHOL

THE BEE WISPERER

"PROTECT OUR POLLINATORS"

*Longtime Northbridge historian and history teacher and
Worcester County Bee Inspector*



REMEMBERING FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO
HAVE LEFT US A LEGACY





General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

T Jablanski, President



SAVERS FUNDrive™

Is your closet overcrowded? Are your drawers bulging? Is fall cleaning calling you? Are ready to channel your M. Kondo spirit?

GFWC Massachusetts is holding an All Soft Goods FUNDrive. This will benefit our nonprofit because SAVERS pays the most per lb which is the fastest and easiest way to reach our goal!

WHEN: anytime before Friday, October 20, 2023

DROP OFF: GFWC MA Headquarters, Sudbury

TIME: any Thursday. Please call our Headquarters @ 978-443-4569 prior to drop off



ACCEPTING: Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Towels
Accessories: Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Ties, Socks,
Purses, Wallets, Backpacks, Bags, Belts, and Jewelry



Support GFWC Massachusetts and feel great about donating items you no longer need or do not bring you joy!

GFWC MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE

Donna Shibley, Webmaster

WEBSITE:

Please send any club happenings to dmsibley@gmail.com for addition to the state website. We are always looking to help YOU publicize your club events, programs, and projects. We can even feature your event on our GFWC MA FaceBook page. Send a flier to me and I can do the rest.

I would like to share some important facts about the GFWC MA website.

When was the last time you visited our website?

The website is updated monthly including the slideshow scroll bar with monthly causes (e.g., March is Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, Youth Art Month, National Kidney Month, Social Work Month, and Red Cross Month) and timely happenings (e.g., contests, scholarships). The dropdown pages on the navigation bar ribbon have been arranged for easy access and include pertinent subtopics.

Do you know that it is quick and easy to get information?

Want to see past issues of the GFWC News & Notes newsletters? ~ find it on the navigation bar under **News**

Want to see updated GFWC National Chairmen newsletters? ~ find it on the navigation bar under **About GFWC**.

GFWC/GFWCMA emblems/logos is a new page ~ quick access to those logos needed for club branding ~ find it on the navigation bar under **Women's Clubs**

Information about the GFWC blog was added to the GFWC News & Notes page and we highlighted GFWC MA clubs that were featured. ~ find it on the navigation bar under **News**

Junior Membership has its own tab on the navigation bar (we incorporated both websites into one to avoid duplication).

If you need help navigating the GFWC MA website, please reach out to me and I would be happy to offer you a Zoom tutorial to show you the ins and outs. Or if **your club** needs a virtual speaker, I would be happy to show your members our GFWC MA website which is a wonderful communication tool.

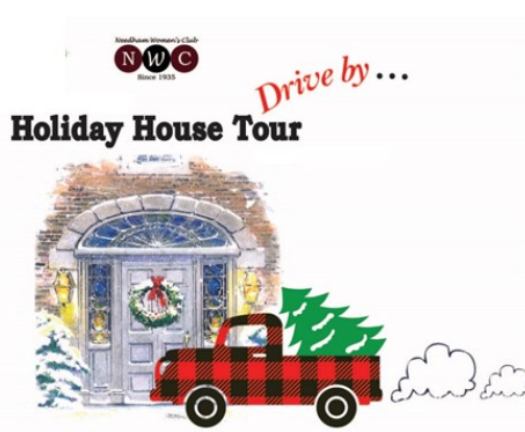
How to get featured on the GFWC Volunteers in Action Blog or be considered for the President's Gem.

Email PR@GFWC.org to have your club project considered for the GFWC Volunteers in Action Blog. Also let the **GFWC Massachusetts Communications and Public Relations Chairman** know about your project so it can be highlighted on our website and FaceBook page ~ email:

dmsibley@gmail.com



Needham Women's Club



The Needham Women's Club held their 25th Holiday House Tour in December. The Holiday House Tour is the single largest fundraiser the club does all year. Proceeds from the tour help fund the financial donations the NWC provides to Needham community programs and organizations. *Submitted by Mary Ann Pierce, NWC Treasurer.*

Millbury Women's Club



The Millbury Women's Club held their first meeting of 2023 with an Ice Cream Social serenaded by the DriveWay Chicks Ukulele Band and the induction of two new members. Pictured are Diane Erickson, Claire Despres, Cheryl Lazarro, Veronica Wood and Jane Cheetham and the Driveway Chicks. *Submitted by Diane Erickson, MWC President.*

Braintree Women's Club



MUSIC
BINGO



Braintree Women's Club Generous Holiday Donations

Lunenburg Woman's Club



Lunenburg Woman's Club will be 110 years old this year. We have a wonderful group of ladies . Recently we had 7 new members join , they are very excited to be part of our club , loving the programs, teas and projects we are doing . Our favorite project is the Holiday Shut-in baskets we fill with goodies , with the help from the Girls Scouts & Turkey Hill Lions Club we filled 37 baskets.

Submitted by Katherine Dupuis, LWC President.



February

Board of Directors Meeting

Savers FUNDrive



Ousamequin Club



Pictured is the 2022 Christmas Tree drawing designed by clubmember Paula Cantave. She has been in the club for 3 years and does so much artistically for us from centerpieces for our teas to photography presentations of club events. This was our 6th charity fundraiser. We choose a different, local organization that does not get a lot of attention. This year our chosen charity was ConfiKids Help Build Confidence in Children-ConfiKids, Foxborough, MA, a nonprofit organization that strives to provide opportunities for children of limited financial means to participate in enrichment activities so that they may pursue their interests and passions, develop new skills, establish new relationships, and, ultimately, build confidence.

We learned of this organization through our union with Tammy Dzialo and ProjectPACK (another small organization, right in Bridgewater, which was brought to our attention through GFWC MA). We will be presenting a check to the organizers of ConfiKids at our April meeting. The April program will address the GFWC signature program—domestic violence including information about shelters, statistics and how pets can impact the decision to leave an abusive relationship. The speaker, Heather Devitt, is the Director of DV Services of Family Community Resources. We will be taking a collection for The Purple Leash Project - RedRover. In 2019, Purina and RedRover partnered to launch the Purple Leash Project to increase the number of pet-friendly domestic violence shelters nationwide and spread awareness about this vital issue.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join our meeting on Monday, April 3, at 2 p.m. at the Bridgewater Senior Center, 10 Wally Krueger Way, Bridgewater. Our business meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Submitted by Jean Guarino, OC President

Auburn Junior Woman's Club



In January, club members of the GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club conducted a "Warm Hands/Warm Hearts" project. Club members purchased and distributed 183 new and gently used hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Each item had an attached tag that had affirming notes such as "You are beautiful", "You can do this", "Breathe, you've got this". A group of 5 clubwomen distributed these heart and body-warming pieces in downtown Worcester, MA, in areas where homeless people would find them, attaching them with yarn to lampposts, benches and fences. Club members were given cash by a club member and asked to give to people in need. Members were all quite humbled and delighted as they were greeted by several homeless citizens with "Thank you" and "God Bless You". It was truly an eye-opening experience. Club members were inspired to continue helping the homeless.

Submitted by Michelle Butler, AJWC President



Hanover Woman's Club Juniors

Hanover Woman's Club Juniors President, Jill Kadra and Vice President Mary Anne Cirino present Jason Cavallaro, Hanover Fire Chief with a gift card for \$500 to a local market to purchase food for the fire department. Tim Kane Hanover Police Chief was presented with a check for \$500 to be used toward a comfort dog the department was adopting. The funds were raised from the clubs Holiday Auction held in November. *Submitted by Mary Anne Cirino, HWCJ Vice President*



Holiday Party at Headquarters





Hopkinton Women’s Club

The [Compassion New England](#) Crisis Center is located in the Blessing Barn in Mendon Ma. They do amazing work for people in our community. This year the HWC donated another 30 care bags filled with toiletries and other personal products to help make a few folks feel extra special this upcoming Valentine’s Day. Pictured below is club member Nancy Tarsi, Project HOPE Chairperson, delivering the bags to Shana Sullivan, Care Representative of CNE. This is made possible by the collective effort of the members of our club. *Submitted by Doris Early, HWC President*



I can BEE CARING

by showing concern
and helping others.

NORTHBORO JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB



The Northboro Junior Woman’s Club had a wonderful time caroling at Victoria Haven Nursing home in early December. We provided cozy lap blankets for the residents, and they were most grateful for our visit and enjoyed singing along.

Submitted by Michelle Folan, NJWC Co-President

The Holly Club of Wrentham



Highlighting our new member Janice Wilson from the Holly Club, Wrentham, MA. On Saturday, February 11th, the Members of The Holly Club – along with members of our community – came together to make 200 flower gifts for the residents of The Pond Home, The Maples, and Serenity Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Homes in Wrentham. This project was led by Janice Wilson, a member who joined our club this past May. She and her daughter did the initial preparation of the cups and the volunteers made the flower arrangements. She took great care of the volunteers providing sandwiches, brownies, muffins, cookies (gluten free and regular for all), tea, and coffee. It was held from 9 AM - 3 PM at our Senior Center. Our State Representative Marcus Vaughn and his children stopped by to participate. As a result of this fun day 2 members from the community are interested in learning more about joining The Holly Club. A project well done! A very Successful Day!! *Submitted by Penny Olson, HCW President*

Boston Parliamentary Law Club



New England team hooded sweatshirts, socks, winter hats, and gloves were wrapped and delivered to Sweats For Vets in time for the holidays.



Members of the Boston Parliamentary Law Club enjoyed a holiday lunch at the Sudbury Point Grill.

General Federation of Women's Clubs & Junior Membership of Massachusetts



130 Years "A Legacy of Leadership"

What's Happening!

- ☀ Registration, Raffles and Shopping
- ☀ Reports & Recognitions
- ☀ Clubwoman of the Year
- ☀ **Special Speaker**, Katie Moydell, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs
- ☀ Scholarships presentation
- ☀ Awards & Trophies
- ☀ Stress Relief from Laughter



1898 Society – Cheers to YOU!

See Jen Nowak for your surprise!

Overnight Accommodations

Courtyard by Marriott Natick

Room rates: \$145 Deadline: April 15, 2023

Here is the link:

[Book your group rate for GFWC MA](#)

The Bistro café is open from 7am til 11am

1924 Society – Sunflower Social

Consider joining the 1924 Society for this administration! Send your check for \$24.19 with your registration for an exclusive invitation to the Sunflower Social immediately before dinner on Saturday.

Friday Junior Fun Night Festivities

Staying Friday night? All are welcome for a casual and fun night of Minute to Win It challenges. Reach out to Marisa Jablanski, Director@gfwcma.org



President T Jablanski and Director of Junior Clubs, Marisa Jablanski have planned and prepared a great Saturday celebration and are looking forward to welcoming you to your Annual Convention in Natick, Massachusetts.



The CALL Annual Convention

Saturday, May 6, 2023
Courtyard by Marriott Natick
342 Speen St. Natick
Registration opens at 8:30am

Something NEW for You!

Club Connection – Tables will be available for YOUR club to sell and promote an event happening in your club. ½ of a six-foot table, must reserve ahead. **Contact:** Theresa Frias @ friasteresa@comcast.net

What to Bring?

- ✓ **Donations** to benefit **Central MA YWCA:** Travel Mugs, Tote Bags, (reusable) Tampons (period products)
- ✓ **Leadership Contest Poster**
"Wall of Leaders" - highlighting amazing women, who show their worth and stand tall and proud for GFWC MA and Junior Membership. Instructions can be found at: www.gfwcma.org



Basket Raffle Donation

Theme: Fill-A-Purse

Fill a purse, a bag, or tote

- ☀ Pretty
- ☀ Practical
- ☀ Playful

It's up to you. Thanks for your donation!

Opportunity Raffle to support:

💰 Ricky Gomes Scholarships

General Federation of Women’s Clubs and Junior Membership of Massachusetts

T Jablanski, President

Marisa Jablanski, Director of Junior Clubs

2023 Annual Convention

Registration Form



KNOW YOUR WORTH



Club Name: _____

All attendees must be listed below							
	Registration	1 st Time Attendee	Guest	Sandwich Buffet	Dinner Buffet Chicken Parm	Vegetarian	Total \$\$
Member Name	\$15			\$30	\$48		

Lunch Buffet: Assortment of sandwiches on bulkie rolls: Turkey & Roast Beef, Chicken Caesar, Buffalo Chicken, Tuna, Grilled Veggies. Garden or Caesar Salad, potato or pasta salad & Chef’s choice of dessert.

Dinner Buffet: Chicken Parm with garden salad, pasta with marinara & sausage with pepper & onions. Chefs’ choice of dessert.

Send to:
 Katie Robey 97 Hudson Street,
 Marlborough, MA 01752

Checks made out to:
 GFWC Massachusetts

Due by: April 28
 No refunds after this date

_____ Registration Only \$15 \$ _____

_____ MEALS total \$ _____

Total submitted with form \$ _____

_____ **1924 Society** \$24.19 (checks payable to GFWC MA Junior Membership) \$ _____

Contact person name & phone number _____

Thank you! Safe Travels! See you soon in Natick!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr 1	Clubwoman of the Year – Due to Membership Chairman Elaine Brickman
Apr 1	Julia Ward Howe President's Award – Due to President T Jablanski
Apr	Executive Committee (Date TBD)
Apr 12	Junior Executive Board Meeting
Apr 17–21	GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
Apr 22	Earth Day at Headquarters
Apr 24	GFWC Federation Day
May 5 & 6	Annual Convention–Courtyard Marriott Natick
May 20	Board of Directors Meeting
May 20	Federation Day at the Forest
June 1	Jennie Award Nomination Form – Due to President T Jablanski
June 8–13	GFWC Convention, Louisville Marriott Downtown, Louisville, Kentucky
June 15	Manual Sheets – Due to HQ Secretary Diane Erickson
Sept 22–24	New England Region Conference – Rocky Hill, Connecticut
Oct 29	Fall Meeting – Public House, Sturbridge



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS
 245 DUTTON RD
 SUDBURY, MA 01776
gfwema.org
 978-443-4569