

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts, Inc.
Proposed Bylaws
GFWC Annual Convention ~ May 4, 2024

The Bylaws Committee presents the following amendments to the Bylaws for consideration at the GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention to be held on May 4, 2024.

These are being presented with the recommendation of the Board of Directors from their March 16, 2024, meeting.

Article XV—Memorial Forest

CURRENT BYLAW

Section 1. GFWC Massachusetts shall own and maintain a tract of land known as the Memorial Forest in the town of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Section 2. The Memorial Forest shall be supervised and administered by the Memorial Forest Committee, consisting of five members including a Chairman and three elected members. The Chairman of the Environment Community Service Program shall serve as a member ex-officio with full voting privileges.

A. The Chairman and the elected members shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the Board of Directors at its January meeting in the even calendar year for such terms as said Board may deem wise. The committee shall assume its duties June 15;

B. The Board of Directors at any regular meeting, upon nomination of the Executive Committee, shall fill any vacancy occurring within the committee.

Section 3. The Memorial Forest Committee shall maintain and develop the Memorial Forest property, except the Headquarters building and parking lot, and arrange activities to stimulate interest in the Memorial Forest, and in conservation practices.

A. The Chairman shall report on the activities of the committee at each Annual Convention, to the Executive Committee when necessary and at such other times as the Board of Directors may request;

B. Any expenditure in excess of one hundred (\$100) shall be approved by vote of the Executive Committee and reported to the Board of Directors at its next meeting;

C. Maintenance of the driveway and parking lot shall be a shared expense by the Memorial Forest Committee and the Headquarters Commission.

Article XVI--Headquarters Commission

CURRENT BYLAW

Section 1. There shall be a Headquarters Commission consisting of six (6) Trustees, the President, First Vice President, Treasurer and three members of GFWC Massachusetts.

A. The Board of Directors at its January meeting in the even-calendar year, on nomination by the Executive Committee, shall elect three Trustees for the Headquarters Commission for one administration beginning at the date of the next Annual Convention of GFWC Massachusetts.

No elected Trustee shall serve for more than one administration unless appointed by the Executive Committee as Chairman. The Chairman will have served as a Trustee during a previous administration;

B. Maintenance of the driveway and parking lot shall be a shared expense by the Memorial Forest Committee and the Headquarters Commission;

C. The Board of Directors at any regular meeting, upon nomination by the Executive Committee, shall fill any vacancy in the elected membership of the Trustees;

D. The Chairman of the Trustees shall present a report to GFWC Massachusetts at each Annual Convention, and to the Board of Directors at such other times as the Board may request;

E. Decisions must be made at a Trustee Meeting or via Electronic Communication. A majority vote of the Trustees is required for a decision to carry. Documentation of the vote shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Headquarters Commission:

A. To survey the Headquarters' building to determine necessary action for its preservation and maintenance;

B. To recommend to the Board of Directors, with the approval of the Executive Committee, improvements and renovations to the building;

C. To approve all acquisitions and gifts to Headquarters;

D. To refer all requests for funding to the Executive Committee for final approval by the Board of Directors.

PROPOSED BYLAW

Strike in their entirety Article XV-Memorial Forest and Article XVI-Headquarters Committee and Substitute with a new Article XV-Memorial Forest and Buildings Committee.

RATIONALE: TO UPDATE

TO READ:

Article XV - Memorial Forest and Buildings Committee.

Section 1. GFWC Massachusetts owns and maintains a tract of land known as the Memorial Forest in the towns of Sudbury and Marlborough, Massachusetts, which includes, but not limited to: all buildings, driveway, parking lot and forest property.

Section 2. The Memorial Forest and Building Committee shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, and the Environment Community Service Program Chairman, who each serve in an ex officio capacity with full voting privileges, a chairman and up to 3 appointed members at large.

A. The appointed Chairman and the committee members shall be announced at the first Board of Directors meeting after the Annual Convention in the even-calendar year. The committee shall assume its duties within one month of the Annual Convention;

B. The Chairman shall report on the activities of the committee at each Annual Convention, to the EC when necessary and at such other times as the Board of Directors may request;

C. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy occurring within the committee.

Section 3. The Memorial Forest and Building Committee shall oversee and maintain the said property and buildings located at 245 Dutton Road, Sudbury, MA. The committee will:

A. Survey all buildings and property to determine necessary action for its preservation and maintenance;

B. Recommend to the Board of Directors, with the approval of the EC, improvements and renovations to the buildings and property;

C. Arrange activities to stimulate interest in the Memorial Forest, and in conservation practices;

D. Approve all acquisitions and gifts to Headquarters and/or Memorial Forest.

Section 4. Any necessary expenditures less than one hundred dollars (\$100) can be spent with approval of the committee; any expenditure in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be approved by the EC and the Finance Committee; and shall be reported to the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

Article XIV—Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies CURRENT BYLAW

Section 1. There shall be five members of the Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies consisting of the President, the Treasurer and three members of GFWC Massachusetts.

A. The Board of Directors at its January meeting in the event-calendar year, on nomination by the Executive Committee, shall elect three committee members for the Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies for one administration beginning at the date of the next Annual Meeting of GFWC Massachusetts. One committee member shall be appointed by the Executive Committee as Chairman. No elected Committee member shall serve for more than one administration unless appointed by the Executive Committee as Chairman in the next administration.

B. The Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided above, at any regular meeting, upon nomination by the Executive Committee, shall fill any vacancy in the elected membership of the committee.

Section 2. GFWC Massachusetts shall maintain an institutional fund designated as the Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Studies. The scholarships should honor Past Presidents of GFWC Massachusetts and be given for graduate studies in a field or fields of particular interest to the Past Presidents being honored.

- A. These monies shall be granted to those outstanding women who demonstrate:
1. Excellence in scholarship;
 2. Potential; and
 3. Maintain a residence in Massachusetts.

Section 3. The Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies shall be responsible for updating and distributing its forms and shall oversee the judging, interview and selection of recipients for the scholarships.

Section 4. The amount of monies awarded each year will be determined upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, by approval of the Executive Committee and by vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Scholarship decisions may be made at a committee meeting or via electronic communication. A majority vote of the members is required for a decision to carry. Documentation of the vote shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

PROPOSED BYLAW

Strike in their entirety Article XIV—Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies and Substitute with a new Article XIV—Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Studies

RATIONALE: TO UPDATE

TO READ:

Article XIV—Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Studies

Section 1. GFWC Massachusetts shall maintain an institutional fund designated as the Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Studies.

A. The scholarships should honor Past Presidents of GFWC Massachusetts and be given for graduate studies in a field or fields of particular interest to the Past President being honored.

B. These monies shall be granted to outstanding women who maintain a residence in Massachusetts and demonstrate strong potential for making contributions in the field of study being honored.

C. Candidates must provide proof of acceptance to a graduate level education program prior to any funds awarded being disbursed by the GFWC MA Treasurer to the recipient.

Section 2. There shall be five members of the Memorial Education Scholarship Committee for Graduate Studies consisting of the GFWC Massachusetts Treasurer and four members of GFWC Massachusetts appointed by the President, each to serve for the administration beginning at the date of the next meeting of GFWC Massachusetts. One committee member shall be appointed by the President as Chairman. The committee serves as a selection committee managing the application process and the distribution of annual scholarships from the fund.

Section 3. The amount of monies distributed from the fund each year will be determined upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, by approval of the EC and by vote of the Board of Directors. Final decisions on scholarship recipients and amounts awarded to each shall be the responsibility of the Memorial Education Scholarship Committee.

Section 4. Scholarship decisions may be made at a committee meeting or via electronic communication. A majority vote of the members is required for a decision to carry. The committee chairman shall present a final report at the annual meeting of GFWC Massachusetts.