



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts



Federation Topics - a newsletter for Clubwomen

Winter 2018

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts Headquarters - P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776 www.gfwcma.org
Member GFWC International – www.gfwc.org

“Do what you love, love what you do, and with all your heart give yourself to it.”

Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart



Lots of Leaders present and wearing their Red in recognition of Heart Health at the GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club's Annual Meeting and Installations of Officers on February 6th. Left to right: Caitlyn Geary, President, GFWC Marlborough Juniorettes, Brenda Geary, President, GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club, Martha Casassa, GFWC of Massachusetts Director of Junior Clubs, Lynne Stader, GFWC of Massachusetts President, and last, but never least, Sheila Shea, GFWC International President (and a Marlborough Junior Woman's Club member).

Inside Highlights

President's Message
Director of Junior Clubs' Message
Midwinter Meeting
Officers' Notes
Club Happenings
Dates to Remember



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynne M. Stader



Former NBA Basketball Coach Phil Jackson cited, "The strength of the team is the individual player, and the strength of each player is the team." What a great summary for our **Midwinter Meeting** at Stoneforge Tavern last month. I was so very disappointed to miss the meeting due to my mother's illness, yet **I knew without a doubt that the success of the meeting would come from the team of leaders who would carry the day, and from all of you, the members who attended.** The strong attendance, incredible survival story of speaker, Ashley Bendiksen, member attention to business, great food, and the spirit of sisters in federation sharing the day together, indeed made the event a success. Deepest thanks to First Vice President Donna Shibley for presiding with very little notice, and to Meetings Chairman Laurie Middleton who drove to my house in a heartbeat to pick up all the meeting supplies. *Love that volunteer spirit!*

Did you know that members brought over 800 items to Midwinter Meeting for Project Pack, in support of victims of sexual assault? That is the beauty of our federation- our members can *collectively* make such a difference and care so deeply about our GFWC Signature Project, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. Don't forget to track your donations for reports!

Did you know that a bylaw amendment passed at Midwinter Meeting increasing the number of voting delegates apportioned to clubs? Clubs will now receive one delegate per every 10 members. Look for notification from our headquarters secretary in the coming weeks confirming the number of voting delegates your club has for the 2018 Annual Meeting following this bylaw change.

Did you know that our club donations to MassSTAR this year have already increased by 87%? *My heartfelt thanks!* I have visited almost 20 clubs around the state since last September, along with "Missy", my mannequin, ready to remind our members that our GFWC logo is right there on the back of the shirt worn by over 150 high school sophomores every year at this leadership event. **And with sponsorship comes great responsibility, does it not?** Has your club sent in its contribution form for the year? ***It's not too late.*** Wouldn't it be wonderful to announce at Annual Meeting that our members increased their support of MassSTAR **by 100%! / know we can do it.**

There have been many success stories for our state federation and for our clubs this winter season. Do join us at Annual Meeting and Installation May 5-6 at the Westford Regency in Westford. Save the Date! The *Call* will be out in late March but it's not too soon to reserve your room. *See you there!*



Mass STAR tee shirt displays the GFWC emblem on the back as a major sponsor.

Lynne



Junior Membership Connection
Martha Casassa
Director of Junior Clubs



Snow came. Snow went. And it feels like Spring is really around the corner. Reporting is finished and contest entries for clubwomen awards are complete. Congratulations to each and every Junior club for telling us what you did and how you did it in your reports - over 1000 projects and 30,000 hours volunteered. During my administration, I have had the pleasure of visiting your clubs, meeting so many of our Junior clubwomen, and learning what happens in each community. It is amazing what we clubwomen accomplish and the number of lives we touch. Be proud. Keep "Living the Volunteer Spirit" every day.

Before I go further, I would like to ask you to take a moment to send your positive thoughts to our Juniorettes in Benton, KY and Parkland, FL along with their families and the communities they serve. They have gone through horrific events and deserve our support. Thank you.

In our state we have two Juniette clubs and are looking for more. Young women are ready and willing to volunteer. We need to reach out and give them the GFWC opportunity!

I am really excited to invite you all to the **GFWC MA Junior Annual Conference** in April where you can "*Find the Art in Your Heart.*" No artistic talent required to have fun! Circle the dates of **April 27 and 28** on your calendars now! Why two dates you may be asking? Well, **April 27 is Junior Fun Night**. You have the day open, but you don't want to miss painting your own wine glass that night with our clubwoman artist-in residence Patty Salomon and then kicking back to enjoy using your glass. The next day will be chock full of awards, an artistic speaker, and some artsy surprises tossed in. And don't forget – we are installing a new Director and officers for 2018-202. Come join the celebration. We will be collecting student art supplies to donate as well. More details to follow in the Call in March.

As this will be my final TOPICS message, I sincerely want to thank you for allowing me to be your Director for the past 2 years. I did Connect, Grow, and it Changed my World! What I have seen and learned along with the friendships made convince me more than ever that GFWC is truly THE organization to join in order to enhance the lives of others through our volunteer service. I am proud and humbled to have served you.

In Junior Love and Appreciation for ALL you do!

Martha Casassa

MIDWINTER MEETING - Stoneforge Tavern, Raynham



Keynote speaker, **Ashley Bendiksen**, a domestic violence survivor, motivator and activist told her moving story of her experience with abuse.

Massachusetts club women were extremely generous donating over 800 items to be given to Project Pack for other victims of sexual assault. The trunk is certainly full! Ashley is full of thanks!



1st Vice President **Donna Shibley** going over the script--she did a fabulous job presiding for President Stader who, sadly, had to miss the day due to a family emergency. Nothing like a little on-the-job training!

Over 80 women enjoyed the programming and the fellowship at Midwinter Meeting at the Stoneforge Tavern!



Robin O'Connor tries to "put a little love in your heart" at Federation Station at Midwinter Meeting.

Resolutions Recap

Please review the following Resolutions that were recently updated at Midwinter Meeting. These can be found on the GFWC of MA website under the Member link. If a hard copy is requested, please contact Donna Shibley.

- Conservation
 - Global Warming
 - Ecological Effect of the MWRA Plan
 - Water Quality and Supply
- International Outreach
 - Drug Trafficking
- Public Issues
 - Crime
 - Gun Control
 - School Bus Safety
 - Smoking in Public Places

Were you unable to join us at Midwinter Meeting? 2018 Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers is coming soon!

Make memories and experience fun and fellowship with other club women!



Special Guest
GFWC International
President Sheila Shea

GFWC of MA **Annual Meeting** **and Installation**

May 5-6, 2018

Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center

219 Littleton Road, Westford

Exit 32 off of 495

GFWC rate \$125/night until April 12th.

Ask for: General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Phone: (978) 692-8200

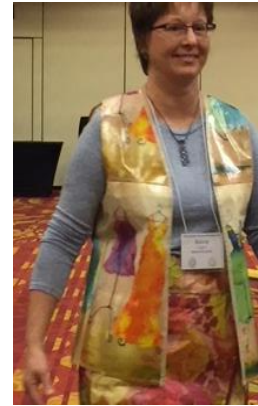
Holiday at Headquarters



Our Holiday at Headquarters was another great success with cookies galore, carol singing and wonderful raffle baskets. A great way to kick off the holiday season!

Serious Seamstresses Sought!

Do you have a club member who has talent in the clothes design and creation area? GFWC International is running a contest for State Federations to create an outfit from reusable grocery bags (fabric type). Picture at right shows **Nancy Coughlin**, Northboro Junior Woman's Club, modeling prototype. Feel free to come up with your own design. All clubs are welcome to participate. State judging will be at Annual Meeting on May 6, 2018. Look for additional info in the Call.



Coming soon!

Cleaning out your closets and getting ready for Spring? Here's your opportunity to do that and help out GFWC of Massachusetts at the same time! Drop off at Headquarters in Sudbury before March 10th (Club Institute Day on March 1st is perfect). Please call if you are dropping off to make sure Diane is there to take your donations.

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY
BY DONATING
CLOTHES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!



Our **FUNDrive**
will be held at:

GFWC MA Headquarters
Drop off till March 9th
Delivery to Savers on March 10

and will benefit:

GFWC of MA
Maintenance of
HQ, Grounds and
Membership



learn more:

Mary Ann Pierce- mapqfwc@msn.com
781-4443189
Diane McCurley- dido67@aol.com
978-443-4569

FUNDrive
savers

we accept:

- CLOTHING
- SHOES
- BEDDING / TOWELS
- ACCESSORIES
- CDs, DVDs, BOOKS
- ELECTRICAL ITEMS
- TOYS & GAMES
- KITCHEN ITEMS
- KNICK-KNACKS
- SPORTING GOODS

CLUB HAPPENINGS



GFWC of Massachusetts President **Lynne Stader** visited the **Holly Club of Wrentham** recently and posed with officers. Left to right: GFWC of Massachusetts President **Lynne Stader**, **Stephanie Raho**, Holly Club Treasurer, President **Donna Canavan**, Vice President **Alicia Sheridan**, Corresponding Secretary **Cathie Teahan** and Recording Secretary **Diane O'Connell**.

Director of Junior Clubs **Martha Casassa** with Pioneer Junior Woman's Club Treasurer **Brenda Taylor** ready to "wrap it up" for the Orange Santa Fund.



Club Advisor **Diane McCurley** with members of the GFWC Girls for a Greater Good falling in love with some feline friends at a pet shelter in Salem. The **Junioresses** made 32 fleece pads for the pet cages.

More Clubs, More Happenings!



Members of the **Braintree Women's Club** pose with **Mayor Sullivan** next to the bench they donated to their town in memory of late member **Barbara Swain**. The bench serves to remind all that bullying is not acceptable! Great job everyone!



Members of the **GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club** ventured out on a very chilly January evening in Southbridge to decorate the town with hats, gloves and scarves for anyone needing a little help staying warm this winter.



Even More Club Fun!



President Stader getting ready to enjoy the Needham Women's Club's Holiday House Tour. Eight beautiful homes all decked out in their finery for the holiday season.

Five more Massachusetts leaders: Diane McCurley, T Jablanski, Donna Shibley, Jen Nowak and Katie Robey having a great time at the house tour. Rustic barn was a wonderful surprise treat!



Members of the **GFWC Norwood Junior Woman's Club** gather at their holiday meeting with Director of Junior Clubs, **Martha Casassa**. The club wrapped blankets to give to nursing home residents when they go caroling for the holidays.

President's Project - Lynne Stader

MassSTAR - President's Project Chairman, Ann Marie Bielenin would like to remind everyone that it is MassSTAR "recruitment time". If you have not yet contacted your local high school(s) student counselors regarding MassSTAR, please do. It is time for them to choose their student and get information from MassSTAR. They can do this by going to the MassSTAR website (massyouthleadership.org/massstar). As of February 10th the MassSTAR website has announced that the **2018 MassSTAR Citizenship Conference** will be held on **Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3 at Lasell College, Newton.**

Treasurer's Tidbits

Treasurer T Jablanski can't emphasize enough the importance of filing your club's 990N. If your club accepts any money or donations from the public which are thought to be tax deductible by the contributor, your club must have a valid 501(c)3 designation. If you do not file your *e-Postcard* on time, the IRS may send you a reminder notice but you will not be assessed a penalty for late filing the *e-Postcard*. However, an organization that fails to file required *e-Postcards* (or information returns – Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The automatic revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

Noteworthy Noeses - (Your editor just loves that word!)

A couple of reminders of upcoming contests. On April 1st entries for the **Clubwomen of the Year** and **Julia Ward Howe President's Award** are due. Please check the GFWC of Massachusetts website for full rules and forms

March 20th is less than a month away!! May I be the first to wish everyone a Happy Spring!!



Dates to Remember

- March 1 GFWC of Massachusetts Scholarship and Memorial Education Fund Fellowship Applications are due to GFWC of MA, PO Box 679, Sudbury 01776
- March 10 SAVERS Fundraiser - Headquarters, 9 a.m.
- April 28 Junior Membership Annual Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield -- Awards, Installation of 2018-2020 Officers
- May 5-6 GFWC of Massachusetts Annual Meeting, Westford Regency Scholarship/Fellowship presentations, Club Awards, Installation of 2018-2020 Officers
- June 1-3 MassSTAR Leadership Seminar, Lasell College
Saturday June 2nd Service Project
- June 7 Executive Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Federation Day at the Forest 1:00 p.m., Sudbury
- June 23-26 GFWC Annual Convention, St. Louis Union Station Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri

* *Living the Volunteer Spirit* *

Hope you enjoyed this edition of **TOPICS**. When your club does something new/fun/important in your community, takes lots of pictures and send them to gfwcma@aol.com for publication in our next issue!

Thanks for reading!

Diane McCurley, Editor