



# GFWC-OKLAHOMA QUARTERLY NEWS

## GFWC-OK OFFICERS

2024 – 2026

[www.gfwc-ok.org](http://www.gfwc-ok.org)

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## LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION TRAINING HELD IN GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

On Saturday, August 10, thirty-one GFWC-OK leaders met at the Cimmaron Gulf Club in Guthrie for their Leadership Orientation Training. Friday evening, seventeen gathered for dinner at Stables Restaurant and nineteen attended the Topsy Artist Fun Event.



## GFWC-OKLAHOMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Southwest/Central District Mtg**  
**September 21, 2024**  
Cheyenne, OK

**South Central Region Conference**  
**October 10 - 12, 2024**  
Sheraton Hotel Downtown  
Oklahoma City, OK  
1-800-325-3535  
Group: **CG8 GFWC South Central**  
**HOTEL DEADLINE: Sept. 10, 2024**



**OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE**

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR CLUB YEARBOOK TO GFWC-OK PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT. A CLUB GROUP PHOTO WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO HAVE AS WELL FOR A DISPLAY.

**DECEMBER 1 DEADLINE**

ANNUAL STATE DUES OF **\$20** EACH MEMBER IS TO BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1. **PREFERABLY BY NOVEMBER 1** IS VERY HELPFUL FOR OUR TREASURER. LOOK FOR THE FILLABLE TREASURER REPORT FORM ON OUR WEBSITE.

**[www.gfwc-ok.org](http://www.gfwc-ok.org)**

OUR GFWC-OK TREASURER SENDS **\$15** PER MEMBER TO GFWC, **\$4** PER MEMBER REMAINS WITH THE STATE, & **\$1** PER MEMBER IS SENT TO YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER.

**GFWC-OK PRESIDENT HOPES...**

That we have several GFWC-OK members volunteer to help welcome South Central Region attendees. All GFWC-OK members are welcome to attend Oklahoma Night and/or the GFWC Business Meeting. You will learn more about GFWC and will make new Region friends.  
Goal: 35 attendees



**FOOD INSECURITY & HUNGER PROJECT**

If you plan to participate sometime during the month of September, your club is to register on the new **GFWC Member Portal** to let GFWC know your club will be participating in the **GFWC 2024 National Day of Service**. Your club will be listed on the International Website under "Oklahoma." To register: There is a link on our [gfwc-ok.org](http://gfwc-ok.org) website.

Register your club for the second GFWC National Day of Service

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Help Us to End Hunger in the United States by Volunteering or Organizing a Community Service Project

GFWC Clubs can plan to:

- Volunteer at a local food bank
- Organize a food drive
- Raise awareness about hunger issues in the United States
- Advocate to end food insecurity in America

2024  
**GFWC SOUTH CENTRAL REGION  
 CONFERENCE, OKC**

**All Hands-on Deck!  
 Calling Oklahoma Club Women!**

**GFWC-Oklahoma** will be hosting our 2024 GFWC South Central Region Conference on October 10-12 in the heart of downtown OKC. Volunteer, Attend, & Meet your 2024-2026 International President & President-Elect, Region Officers, Region State Presidents, and federated sisters from our region states—Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. GFWC-OK President-Elect *Monica Bartling* is our SCR Conference General Chairman. Please Volunteer to help partial or full conference days.

**Let's Shine!  
 It will be Fun!**

**GFWC-OKLAHOMA CLUB MEMBERS**

Order Your State Shirt Today! The Marketplace website link will disappear on August 30. Tell your Club Members!! Last Chance to Order.

**No. of Shirts Ordered in June: 35**



**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE**

[SHERATON HOTEL REGISTRATION DEADLINE](#) at the Group Rate is **September 10**. Wear your GFWC-Oklahoma State Shirt or any GFWC emblem wear on the Friday Tour to the OKC Art Museum & First Americans Museum.

[CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 20](#)  
 Go to [gfwc-ok.org](http://gfwc-ok.org) to register.

**Please volunteer to assist with the tour, registration table, putting décor on tables, etc. Contact Monica Bartling**



**2024-2026**

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS**

**President Debbie Thomas (AR), VP Miriam Costilow (OK)  
 Secretary Patti Poe (TX), and Treasurer Suzanne Simons (LA)**



**2024 -2026  
GFWC SOUTH CENTRAL REGION  
PRESIDENT & STATE PRESIDENTS**



Left to Right: **Vickie Davis** (Arkansas), **Barbara Harvey** (Texas), **Lana Merliss** (Louisiana), **South Central Region President Debbie Thomas** (Arkansas), **Charlene Ridgway** (Oklahoma), **Debbie McAllen** (New Mexico), **Sue Shipley** (Arizona).

**Suellen Brazil** has been an active GFWC Board of Directors member for more than 30 years.

Passionately committed to leadership development, personally and for others, her background and skills were vastly broadened while gaining various perspectives serving in all Alabama and Southern Region elected offices. With a rich background and extensive experience, Suellen is a highly enthusiastic, dynamic leader whose dedication and passion are unwavering.

A native Alabamian, she and deceased husband Billy have two sons, and three adorable grandchildren. Retired after 44 years with Baldwin County Schools, she concluded her career as Executive Elementary Administrator, supervising 28 schools, 18,000 students, and all employees.



**Suellen B. Brazil**  
GFWC International President  
2024 – 2026



**GFWC OKLAHOMA**  
 GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS  
*living the volunteer spirit.*

## Marketplace



1. Go to [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)
2. Click the **Marketplace** tab.
3. Click the picture.
4. Create an Account.



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[www.gfwc.org/gfwc/legis](http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/legis)

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Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to be taken directly to GFWC's Legislative Action Center.

South Central	July 2023	Oct. 2023	Dec. 2023
Arizona	174	176	180
Arkansas	62	62	62
Louisiana	40	40	41
New Mexico	15	16	17
Oklahoma	19	21	23
Texas	113	118	134

### ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Can Oklahoma membership increase our Advocacy participation before October's GFWC South Central Region Conference?

GFWC'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER is a powerful tool to alert you to GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, easily contact your local representative through the center at your fingertip and act on issues germane to GFWC Resolutions. Print and have members sign and mail!



Perry Oklahoma—GFWC-OK Ladies Tuesday Afternoon Club members with Mayor Lawrence Wortham. Great job on your new city sign project!



**VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY IDEA**


**BABY IT'S HOT OUT THERE...**

Gatorade & Water Drive Benefiting Local First Responders.

At our Durant business, I place small Gatorade and regular size water bottles in an ice chest during the hottest weeks of summer. The US Postal Service, FedEx, UPS personnel know to help themselves. They really appreciate this during extreme hot weather.

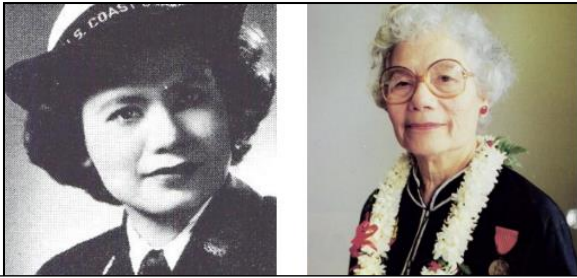
**GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER 28 (OR ANY DAY)**

**ONE MORE CLUB AND OKLAHOMA MEETS 50% PARTICIPATION!**

**YAY!** 

- GFWC Oklahoma**
- GFWC Anadarko Philomatic Club
  - GFWC Durant Fortnightly Club
  - GFWC Hugo Inter Se
  - GFWC La Kee Kon Club, Nowata
  - GFWC McAlester Fortnightly
  - GFWC Silver Foxes
  - GFWC Twentieth Century Club
  - GFWC Waurika Sorosis Club

***"I JUST REGISTERED FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE. WE ARE HAVING A CONTEST AMONG THE GROUPS OF MEMBERS TO SEE WHO CAN BRING THE MOST ITEMS. THE FOOD WILL BE GIVEN TO A LOCAL ORG WHICH SERVICES NATIVE FAMILIES. THE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES HOPEFULLY DONATED."*** –ANITA AKIN, PRESIDENT OF PHILOMATHIC CLUB OF ANADARKO 8/12/2024



### Discover How Your Donation Anchors the Legacy of Bravery

By: The National Coast Guard Museum Association

During World War II, Florence Ebersole Smith Finch risked everything to undermine Japanese occupation forces and aid American prisoners of war in the Philippines. Being half-Filipino, Finch was able to disguise her American connections and evade detection while smuggling vital food, medicine, and supplies to prisoners of war and sabotaging Japanese resources.

Arrested in October 1944 for her brave acts of resistance. Finch was imprisoned until being liberated in February 1945, at which point she moved to New York and enlisted in the **Coast Guard Women's Reserve**. Her commendable bravery in the Philippines made her the very first woman to receive recognition. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom after a former POW from the U.S. Army – coincidentally, her former supervisor – gave testimony of her courageous acts, which saved his life as well as the lives of many other prisoners of war. In 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard immortalized her legacy by naming a building in her honor at their Sand Island, Hawaii base. Though Finch passed away in 2016 at the age of 101, her remarkable story of wartime valor lives on as inspiration.

The National Coast Guard Museum Association is honored that the General Federation of Women's Clubs has chosen to support the construction of the Museum as their nationwide Civic Engagement and Outreach Initiative. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us to preserve heroic stories like Florence's for generations to come.

Let's stand together to honor the past, present, and future of the U.S. Coast Guard. Your support is not just a donation—it's a tribute to those who serve with valor.

Note: when making your gift, please utilize the GFWC-specific giving link (or otherwise mention GFWC) to ensure your generosity is recognized as part of the Federation's collective fundraising effort.



In her nearly four decades in the Coast Guard, Admiral Fagan has served on all seven continents, from the snows of Ross Island, Antarctica to the heart of Africa, from Tokyo to Geneva, and in many ports along the way. As the first woman to serve as Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, she oversees all global Coast Guard operations and 42,000 active-duty, 7,000 reserve, and 8,700 civilian personnel, as well as the support of 21,000 Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers.

## SAMARITAN PURSE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF VISITS OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma towns Barnsdall, Bartlesville, and Sulphur are mentioned in the May 2024 Franklin Graham Update Newsletter.

After waves of killer storms had torn across the Great Plains, Samaritan's Purse volunteers were busy in six states cleaning up damage, making emergency repairs, and comforting survivors. "In busy times like these, we need extra volunteers. If God is calling you or your church to help, sign up at

**spvolunteer.org"**



## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS INFORMATION



### HOPE FOR JUSTICE

**Primary Contact:**  
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**Alternate Contact:**  
**Jeremiah Booth, Senior Philanthropy Manager**  
**E: [jeremiah.booth@hopeforjustice.org](mailto:jeremiah.booth@hopeforjustice.org)**  
**P: 615.931.2531**

### A Partnership to Fight Human Trafficking

Hope for Justice and General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) share a common mission and vision: to live in a world free from trafficking. We see a world where every human is free and equal. We believe every person can be a force for good. Human trafficking is a global problem and Hope for Justice brings a global solution. We target our resources where they will have the most impact and help the most people. We want to create nations and societies that are hostile to trafficking - because what you tolerate, you will never change.

At Hope for Justice, we believe in safe communities for all people, especially women. We share GFWC's vision for building a community that encourages learning, growing, and connecting one another to freedom and independence.

We value your partnership and need your support now more than ever.

By collaborating with GFWC across the country, we can be the generation that ends human trafficking by embedding our education, awareness, and learning programs, rescue and aftercare support services, and expert thought leadership deeper into all communities. YOU can be a part of ending human trafficking.

### Human Trafficking in the United States and Abroad:

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the exploitation of a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. Victims are unable to leave their situation of exploitation and are controlled by threats, violence, coercion, and deception.

It is happening all around us and victims are often hidden in plain sight:

- Estimated 40.3 million victims globally.
- Over 403,000 people affected right here in the U.S.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking, accounting for 71% of victims.
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced and child labor.
- It is a \$150 billion criminal industry—estimates on the economics of trafficking approximate that commercial sexual exploitation generates \$99 billion a year, and that \$51 billion is generated by forced labor and domestic servitude.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimates that 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported were likely sex trafficking victims.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children shows a 130% increase in online enticement reports in 2021 compared to 2019.

### Here's how YOUR Club can join the fight against human trafficking:

#### DONATE:

**Online:** Please visit [www.hopeforjustice.org/GFWC](http://www.hopeforjustice.org/GFWC) to make your donation. In the donation description, please indicate that you are a member of GFWC.

**Call:** Please call 615-426-4724 to make a donation. When making a donation, reference GFWC and your club and state so it will be coded properly.

**Mail:** If you are writing a check, please include GFWC and reference your club in the memo line. Please send to **Hope for Justice: PO Box 280365, Nashville, TN 37228.**