



GFWC-OKLAHOMA QUARTERLY

GFWC-OK OFFICERS

2024 – 2026

www.gfwc-ok.org

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SOUTH CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

On October 10-12, **GFWC South Central Region (SCR)** and **GFWC-Oklahoma** hosted our annual South Central Region Conference at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Oklahoma City. Attendees included GFWC International President **Suellen Brazil** (D.C.), GFWC President-Elect **Wendy Carriker** (NC), SCR President **Debbie Thomas** (AR) and SCR Officers **Miriam Costilow** (OK), **Suzanne Simons** (LA), **Bobbi Caley** (AZ), **Lori Burton** (AR), SCR Committee members, and SCR region members, which included Presidents **Vickie Davis** (AR), **Sue Shipley** (AZ), **Lana Merliss** (LA), **Debbie McAllen** (NM), and **Barbara Harvey** (TX).

Attendees toured the National OKC Memorial Museum, OKC Art Museum Chihuly Exhibition (lunch included), and First Americans Museum. Oklahoma theme “**Boots, Big Hearts, and Bling; It’s an Oklahoma Thing**” was held Friday night. Saturday featured the SCR business meeting, affiliate luncheon with guest speaker Wendy Carriker, and Saturday SCR dinner with guest speaker Suellen Brazil.

A special “thank you” to **Monica Bartling**, Waurika Sorosis Club, GFWC-OK officers, and state membership for a fun and successful conference. The 2025 SCR Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX. [Go to gfwc-ok.org](http://gfwc-ok.org) for conference pictures posted by Monica.

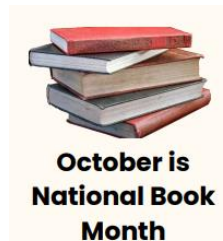


GFWC-OKLAHOMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Southeast District Convention
November 9, 2024
Hugo, OK

Northeast District Convention
November 12, 2024
Tulsa, OK

Oklahoma State Convention
April 25 & 26
Tulsa, OK





GFWC-OK Antlers Twentieth Century Club

Local club members donated 73 pounds of assorted food items to Antlers High School for their food pantry closet. This food pantry is used to help alleviate food shortages the students may face at home and includes food items that require little or no cooking preparation. Pictured in photo: Nicole Faber, Glenna Hayes and two AHS students.

GFWC-OK McAlester Fortnightly Club's 55 members chose to provide non-perishable food items, along with a monetary donation, to children with an insecure home life by donating to the Youth Emergency Shelter of Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. Shown Back to Front: Brenda Calahan, Kristy Cusher, Nina Fereday, Vicky Cherry, Penny Spillman, Tonya Ettner, Angie Sellmeyer, Audriene Randolph, Megan Ciolli, Mary Burris, Cyndi Henrichs. Members of the Casual Gourmet, Arts & Crafts, and Literacy Department.



SULPHUR STRONG!!

Pictured are GFWC-OK Sulphur Sorosis Club planning their club year. L to R: Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon, Rene Ann Kennedy, Ernestine Kite, Carolyn Sparks, Mary Lou Heltzel, Jeannie Fehr, Club Secretary and Donna John, Club President.



GFWC-OK Fortnightly Club of Durant

members present a check to Durant ISD Nutrition Department to help families in arrears with paying school lunches. L to R: Lynette Parmley, Rhonda Richards, Mona Campbell, Erin Cheney, Food Service Admin. Asst., Paula Sullivan, Club President Sharon Robinson. Charlene Ridgway, Erin Cheney, and Sharon Robinson.



GFWC-OK Waurika Sorosis Club participates in National Day of Service

Waurika Sorosis Club Members presented a \$500 check and donated food items to Doug Arnold, President of the JEFFCO Helping Hands Food Pantry Board, at their meeting last Friday. From left, (row one): Linda Chiles, Norma Skelton, Ginger Fitzgerald, Doug Arnold, JEFFCO Helping Hands Food Pantry Board Chairman, Joanna Dyer and Lorie Jenkins. Row 2:

Starr Herring, Denise Linzman, Jennifer Aldridge, Sharon Duncan, Lisa Wheeler, Emily Taylor and Cindy Nitschke. Row 3: Winnie Chatham, Melicia McFadden, Nell Largent, Mondy Smith, Anna Scott and Lindsey Forst. Photo by Monica Bartling



GIVING TO SOCIETY – CAMPAIGN GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE SEPTEMBER 2024



HOW CAN YOU HELP SOLVE FOOD INSECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES?

Clubs initiated the planning process by contacting local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. Clubs organized a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Clubs are encouraged to have every member of their club invite a friend who is not presently a member to experience GFWC in action. This may motivate and inspire your friends to join GFWC. The benefits of community service not only make people feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Reminder: Complete the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service Impact Report

With approximately **1,040** groups participating in our GFWC National Day of Service, measuring our collective impact helps show the power of GFWC.

Please submit your GFWC NDS Impact Report Form as soon as possible so we may compile your data. It is of primary importance that we gather data to show our total impact made by all GFWC groups engaging in our GFWC National Day of Service!

Remember to upload up to five action shots of your project for a chance to be featured in the Fall issue of *Clubwoman*



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 The Fortnightly Club of Durant
- GFWC Tishomingo's Daughters
- GFWC Tuesday Afternoon Ladies Club
- GFWC Twentieth Century Club
- GFWC Waurika Sorosis Club

GFWC Pa-A-Linn

THANK YOU, GFWC-OK CLUBS!
70 % CLUB REGISTRATION!!
Were there any unregistered club food projects?

STATE GOAL was Met! Job Well Done!

IMPORTANT DATES

Membership Dues Dec 1
 (Preferably Nov. 1)

Please send New Member Dues when they join your club

MEMBER DUES BREAKDOWN:

Gfwc International	\$15.00
Gfwc-Oklahoma	4.00
Gfwc-Ok Districts	1.00
TOTAL:	\$20.00

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

CLUB REPORTS

2024 Reports Due Jan 31

2025-26 Officers Report Feb 1

LEADS Applications Feb 15

Initiative Goals Report Apr 1

LOOK FOR THE FILLABLE REPORT FORMS ON OUR WEBSITE.

www.gfwc-ok.org

GFWC-OK PRESIDENT

HOPES...

2 New Club Members or more during the 2024-2026 two -year administration.

Goal: 36+

50 GFWC-OK club members join the Legislative Action Center on GFWC’s website during 2024-2026. **Be a voice for those who have no voice. Advocate with 60,000 clubwomen across our world.**



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

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE & PREVENTION

GFWC: “Moving Mountains Together”

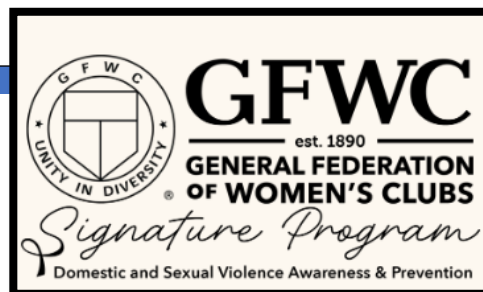
Approximately 200 GFWC Board of Directors (including state presidents) met in Washington D.C. August 22-25. Informative speeches were made by experts about critically important federal resources and pending legislation in Congress followed by panel discussion from several national directors for various aspects of domestic and sexual violence and prevention. Keynote speaker **Shawndell Dawson, Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Violence Prevention & Services (FVPSA)** headed the group. She discussed the importance of government funding through grants to create safe spaces for survivors of domestic violence.

Debbie Fox of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) inspired GFWC leaders to be effective advocates in our local communities. Family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children and the need for safe, affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns for survivors.

Marcel Van de Watt and Megan Griffin of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) discussed the sexual exploitation and mass-scale prevention strategy to crack down on pornographers and facilitators in the corporate arena. Griffin discussed NCOSE’s advocacy work for federal and state legislation, efforts in their law center, and the successful impact of their “Dirty Dozen List” urging corporate responsibility to protect our children from online sexual exploitation. There is increased emphasis on anti-bullying and sexual exploitation, which increases the risk of suicide.

Ann Basham of Ascend Consulting and our GFWC Affiliate Organization “Hope for Justice” addressed anti-trafficking issues, explaining that an estimated 32 million children are sexually exploited each year. Basham noted that “effective changes in public policy begin with changes in public opinion,” urging clubwomen to seek passage of increased funding for the **Victim of Crimes Act** programs, the **Trafficking Survivors Relief Act**, and the **Kids Online Safety Act**.

GFWC is focused on educating its membership on domestic violence and prevention, the advocacy process of raising public awareness, and bringing about the change needed to support survivors.



**GFWC-OK Southwest/Central
District Memorials**



GFWC-OK Sulphur Sorosis

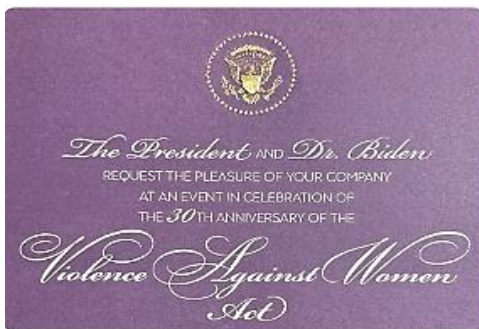
Inez Agee
Brenda Jean (Long) Cavins
Carolynn Patricia (Long) Johnson

GFWC-OK Duncan Owl

Karen Louise (Bailey) Davidson
Sylvia (England) Mitchell

GFWC-OK Cheyenne Platonic

Ruby Margaret Martin
Hedy Inez Rhynes
Sharon Kay (McDaniel) Youngblood



HEADQUARTER'S SPOTLIGHT

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT
APPROVED BY CONGRESS**

Monument Timeline

Phase 1 (2018-2020) Congress Authorizes Establishment of Women's Suffrage National Monument

Phase 2 (2021-2023) Supporting Foundation Established **GFWC is one of several national organization partners financing this project.**

Phase 3 (2023-2026) Site Selection & Oversight Agency Reviews. Three sites have been chosen now under review.

Phase 4 (2026-2029) Nationwide Design Selection, Pre-Construction, & Site Programming

Phase 5 (2030-2033) Monument Fabrication & Installation

Women's Suffrage



Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2024







The **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign** is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, how to appropriately respond to possible cases, and help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations. Located within the Office of Partnership and Engagement and aligned with the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Blue Campaign leverages partnerships with the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), law enforcement, and

state/local authorities to maximize national public engagement on anti-human trafficking efforts. Blue Campaign’s educational awareness objectives consist of two foundational elements, **prevention** of human trafficking and **protection** of exploited persons.

Go online to get your free Blue Campaign Toolkits: [Blue Campaign Toolkits and Guides | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign-toolkits-and-guides)



4 Types of BULLYING

 <p>PHYSICAL Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hitting, kicking, slapping, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, blocking Stealing or destroying someone’s possessions Making mean or rude hand gestures Touching in unwanted & inappropriate ways 	 <p>VERBAL Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name calling Insults Teasing Intimidation Homophobic or racist remarks Inappropriate sexual comments Taunting Threatening to cause harm 	 <p>SOCIAL Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lying & spreading rumors Leaving someone out on purpose Telling others not to be friends with someone Embarrassing someone in public Damaging someone’s social reputation or relationships 	 <p>CYBER Bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posting/sending hurtful texts emails or posts, images or videos Making online threats Imitating others online or using their log-in Deliberately excluding others online Spreading nasty gossip or rumors
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DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HALLOWEEN TURQUOISE/TEAL PUMPKIN CAMPAIGN?

Teal Pumpkin Project: Raising food allergy awareness and offering the option of non-food trinkets and toys in a separate bowl makes Halloween safer and more inclusive for all trick-or-treaters. These bright turquoise/teal jack-o'-lanterns,

whether a simple paper cutout or an actual pumpkin that's been given a fresh coat of paint, indicate a home that is participating in the [Teal Pumpkin Project](#).



What Is the Teal Pumpkin Project?

A relatively new nationwide initiative dedicated to making Halloween safe and fun for all kids, the Teal Pumpkin Project is the brainchild of Becky Basalone, the mother of a child whose severe food allergies made navigating the Halloween landscape a literal minefield.

Can I Still Give Out Candy?


You can continue to give out candy treats like you usually do, but it is important to keep the non-food treats in a separate container (keep candy treats in an orange pumpkin, and the non-edible treats in a teal pumpkin).

8 Affordable Non-Food Treats to Give Out This Halloween

- [Spider Rings](#), \$8 for 144
- [Halloween Bubbles](#), \$17 for 24
- [Creepy Plastic Bugs](#), \$11 for 100
- [Halloween Stamps](#), \$8 for 24
- [Halloween Bouncy Balls](#), \$15 for 72
- [Mini Halloween Note Pads](#), \$10 for 24
- [Vampire Fangs](#), \$14 for 72
- [Glowstick Bracelets](#), \$8 for 100

Our hearts are with the victims of Hurricane Helene and all those impacted across North Carolina, thousands of whom are without cell service and/or power. We will work to support them in every way possible. Donations may be sent to GFWC-NC, 7474 Creedmoor Road #310, Raleigh, NC 27613 with checks made payable to GFWC-NC, noting GFWC-NC Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line.

Thank you so much to all those who have reached out offering support. It is times like this when you truly realize the power and sisterhood of GFWC.



HURRICANE HELENE DISASTER RELIEF CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1

Send your contribution to **GFWC-OK State Treasurer Betty Clay, 925 Crooked Oak Drive, Durant, OK 74701** by November 1, 2024. Should you need to contact Betty, her phone number is **580-920-6878** and her email is **bclay2020@gmail.com**. If you prefer, you may send your individual or club contribution to Betty by Venmo: **@Gfwc-okla-09**.



GFWC TRAVEL TRIP

GFWC is planning a tour to Ireland next year! July 18-26 or 27, 2025. Plans are still in the works. Mark your calendars now if you think you might want to go!!

You are cordially invited to attend the festive 2024 GFWC Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Join us as we feature the “Season of Giving” celebrating the most meaningful gift—the joy of serving others and the difference we make. We hope you will join us in person at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC for a day of festivity.

Please RSVP at memberportal.gfwc.org/events and select ONE time slot in which you would like to attend.

If you are planning to bring a group, please contact GFWC Events Manager Nishu Raina at NRaina@gfwc.org

GFWC News & Notes
 Submit photos and a short story (4-8 sentences, who, what, where, and when) about the awesome things your club is doing in the community to PR@gfwc.org



OCTOBER 23 @ 7:00 pm Eastern Time *Celebrate October Child Advocacy Week* with David Coffey, Safe Surfin’ Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Cyber Safety and Responsibility educational initiative created by law enforcement professionals who are dedicated not only to protecting youth from those who would do them harm but also pro-actively educating youth in the safe and responsible use of today’s ever-changing technology. <https://bit.ly/gfwcgateway2>

GFWC-OK TECHNOLOGY MOMENT
What is Deepfake? How Artificial Intelligence-powered deepfakes are reshaping [our perception of reality](#). (click blue link to view)
 Source: 1440 Email News

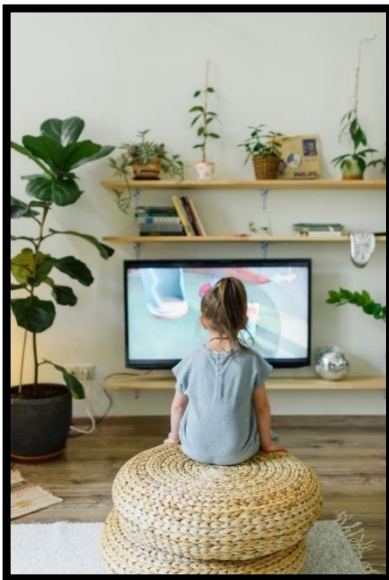
YOUR 2024-2026 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Congratulations to the officers elected in Chicago!

Left to Right: Juliet Casper, Treasurer; Mary Beth Williams, Second Vice President; Wendy Carriker, President-elect; Suellen Brazil, International President; Jolie Frankfurth, First Vice President; Dr. Susan Gettys, Secretary; Shannon Bailey, Director of Junior Clubs

State of Children’s Safety Amid a Rapidly Evolving Tech Industry



The National Coalition on Sexual Exploitation hosted its annual summit on the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE) from August 5–9, 2024. This event brought together advocates, practitioners, policymakers, and parents to discuss how children navigate a digital world fraught with hidden dangers and pressure. It was concluded that the best way to protect and empower children is through education, implementing protective mechanisms, holding tech and gaming companies accountable, and creating safe spaces for open dialogue. Current statistics highlight the alarming exposure of youth to harmful content online:

- 67% of tweens and 76% of teens face bullying
- 58% of tweens and 77% of teens encounter drug-related content

- 33% of tweens and 57% of teens see content promoting suicide or self-harm
- 58% of tweens and 75% of teens are exposed to sexual content
- 8% of tweens and 10% of teens encounter predators
- 19% of tweens and 36% of teens experience anxiety
- 9% of tweens and 21% of teens develop eating disorders

GFWC is committed to supporting and advocating for the rights and protection of children from sexual violence and will continue to collaborate with organizations charting the path to a safer world for future generations. Below are resources to help parents, grandparents, and caretakers better protect youth and understand the pressures faced by children and adolescents today.

Digital Resources:

[Childhood 2.0 Experiment, YouTube](#)

[Keeping Safe in Cyberspace Bark Phone and App](#)

[NCMEC Take it Down](#)

[Apple’s Negligence in Preventing the Spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material \(CSAM\)](#)



GFWC-OK Monday Forum Club

members supporting Main Street Pryor at their Annual Fundraiser “Dancing with the Mayes County STARS”.

Susan Yoder, Member of GFWC-OK Monday Forum Club, (Front row second from left) competed in the Dance Competition with her adult son. “We were there, our table was recognized, with about 300 others to support the cause and cheer on our member.”



Volunteers in Action: GFWC McAlester Fortnightly Literary Department (OK)



The high temperatures in Oklahoma dictated clubwomen to perform quick, effective volunteer projects. GFWC McAlester Fortnightly Literary Department, coached by GFWC Booster Jim Sellmeyer, applied sealant on the WHITE BUFFALO painted mural created by Evan Smith Art. This project was done in honor of GFWC McAlester Fortnightly President, Brenda Calahan, who has recently been appointed as GFWC Oklahoma Arts and Culture Chairman.

This project is performed in tandem with the “Keep McAlester Beautiful” organization which schedules volunteers to perform the upkeep of all painted murals within McAlester, Oklahoma.

Living the Volunteer Spirit!

**Join the
Legislative Action Center
Today!**

We need your voice!

Sign up today!



**Scan the QR code to
the left or go on the
GFWC Member
Portal to Sign up.**

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Take Action: Use Our Legislative Alerts



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.



THANK YOU GFWC CLUBWOMEN! Many thanks to GFWC clubwomen who acted through the Legislative Action Center to support these bills.

Alzheimer's Bills Move Forward: On September 17, the House of Representatives passed the BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7218), which supports public health strategies that promote brain health, address dementia, and support individuals living with Alzheimer's and their families. Action is pending in the Senate. Alzheimer's is currently ranked as the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. and nearly seven million Americans are living with the disease.

Online Child Protection Bills Move Forward: In late July, the Senate approved a bill (S. 2073) combining the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act (KOSA) and the Children and Teen's Online Privacy Act (COPPA 2.0) by an overwhelming vote of 91-3.

Anti-trafficking: In early July, GFWC proudly co-signed an [anti-trafficking coalition letter](#) urging the Senate to enact the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA, H.R. 5856), which is a foundational piece of anti-trafficking legislation because it governs the federal government's comprehensive response to human trafficking. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives in February by a strong bipartisan vote. Importantly, the coalition letter also urges a more comprehensive package by adding the International Trafficking Victims Protection Act (S. 920) recently approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Critical funding must be provided to support survivors and to combat human trafficking in all forms both domestically and internationally. These bills improve efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and

prosecute traffickers. According to the State Department, trafficking undermines national security, distorts markets, and enriches transnational criminals and terrorists. TVPA reauthorization represents a bipartisan and bicameral effort to prevent and stop human trafficking both domestically and internationally.

Firearms and Domestic Violence Are a Deadly Mix: In late June, the United States Supreme Court ruled 8-1 in the case of *U.S. v. Rahimi* affirming that individuals subject to a domestic violence restraining order are restricted from legally possessing a firearm. Civil protection orders are a critical piece of safety for many domestic violence survivors around the country. The National Network to End Domestic Violence and the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence filed an amicus brief in the case and lifted first-hand accounts from survivors and their loved ones to demonstrate how abusive partners use guns to control, intimidate, terrorize, and often kill their victims, and how protective orders are important for survivor safety. Ruth Glenn, President of Public Affairs for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, spoke to the GFWC Board of Directors about her life as a survivor of gun violence by her husband and her advocacy work to impact public policy.

If we were good
at everything,
we would have
no need for each other.



World Mental Health Day Today GFWC recognizes World Mental Health Day by planting a Hope Garden of yellow tulips in front of our GFWC Headquarters. The Yellow Tulip Project is committed to helping others realize that even in the darkest of places, hope is always there, and suicide should never be an option.

Founder Julia and her mom Suzanne Fox founded the Yellow Tulip Project to create a space for determined youth to smash the stigma, build community, and inspire productive conversations about how to combat the rising rates of suicide.

To learn more about GFWC Honorary Chairman Suzanne Fox and the Yellow Tulip Project visit theyellowtulipproject.org