



OFFICIAL CALL TO CONVENTION

GFWC-OKLAHOMA Executive Officers cordially invite you to the **127th GFWC-OKLAHOMA Annual State Convention** scheduled for **April 24-25, 2026**, at the Renaissance Waterford Hotel, 6300 Waterford Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK. Convention is a time where club officers/members gather to celebrate our shared accomplishments, strengthen our bonds, deepen our understanding of GFWC, and prepare us for the next 2-year administration.

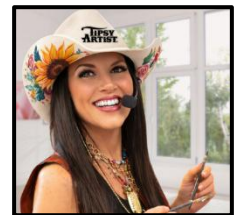


Hotel Registration is open at the **Renaissance Waterford Hotel** to book your GFWC-OK block reserved room with two queen beds at the reduced rate of **\$136** plus tax. Breakfast in the restaurant is included in the room rate. Reserve your room today by clicking this link: [GFWC-OK 127th Annual St Conf](#) or you may contact Deborah Allen at **405-858-2413** to

assist you. Early Registration will place your name in a drawing for a **FREE** one-night stay (\$136) during convention. The last day to book at this rate is **Sunday, April 5.** The last day to register for convention is **Sunday, April 12.** **FREE** self-parking at the hotel. My hope is that all state clubs will be represented at our state convention. Please register early.

Registration will be open 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 24. Please join us for fun and fellowship pre-convention activities. Meet and make new friends with federated state sisters. On tour, wear GFWC or GFWC-OK apparel if able. **Gather in the lobby Friday at 9:30 a.m.** We will leave the hotel at **9:45 a.m.** to tour **The National Cowboy & Western Historic Museum.** Let's take a group photo in and around the stagecoach. Please remind me to get a group photo! We will experience the new 40-minute 360-degree **Cowboy Immersion Exhibit** that surrounds you with the landscapes, stories and spirit of the American West, a story about movement—different people, cultures, and communities all heading west for their own reasons. Over time, the push westward became less about wandering and more about building. And at the center of all that movement? The roads, rivers, rails, and trails that carved their way through this rugged land. Also, at the museum there is the new **Route 66 100th year exhibit.** Shop at the **Persimmon Hill Store.** Explore the western town. View beautiful artwork.

Lunch will be at **Bellini's Ristorante & Grill** across from our hotel behind Simmons Bank. After lunch, join the fun with **Tipsy Artist Tiffany Bohrer** who will guide us as we paint an America 250 theme painting—



your keepsake for the upcoming celebration of **America's 250th Celebration** this July!

Board of Director's Meeting: Friday, April 24 BOD meeting will be held from **4:00 – 4:30 p.m.** The BOD consists of all state officers, parliamentarian, club

presidents, district presidents, and state committee chairmen.

Past State President Event: South Central Region Vice President Miriam Costilow is planning a special gathering of all past state presidents. It would be a joy to have all past state presidents at part or all our state convention. A group photo would be wonderful!

Friday, April 24 Convention: Registration and the Silent Auction will open **5:00 – 5:45 p.m.** **Convention begins at 6:00 p.m.**

Meals: The hotel is willing and able to accommodate any food restrictions or special needs. Let me know in advance.

Friday Dinner Buffet: House Salad with Assorted Dressings, Marinated Grilled Chicken Breasts with Peppercorn Thyme Sauce, Blackened Pork Loin with Bourbon Butter Sauce, Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Herb Wild Rice, Roasted Asparagus, Grilled Zucchini and Squash, Freshly Baked Dinner Rolls, Chef's Assorted Desserts

Saturday, April 25 Convention General Business Meeting: Hotel guests will enjoy a complimentary restaurant breakfast. Registration and the Silent Auction will open at 8:30 a.m. **General Business begins at 9 a.m.** and is scheduled to end at 3 p.m. Attire is casual business wear or dress comfortably. Your choice. No shorts please. Photos will be taken.

Saturday Lunch Buffet: Southwest Salad with Ranch, Grilled Marinated Beef & Chicken Fajitas with Grilled Onions & Peppers, Corn Tortillas and Soft Flour Tortillas, Shredded Lettuce, Pico de Gallo and Pickled Jalapenos, Sour Cream, Salsa, Guacamole, Chili Queso and Tortilla Chips, Borracho Beans, Spanish Rice, Dessert: Sopapillas with Honey Drizzle



GFWC First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth will be joining us for our convention. She will bring greetings from Washington D.C. and will present Leadership and Connecting GFWC with Community workshops.



GFWC South Central Region

President Debbie Thomas will be joining us again this year. She will be installing our 2026-2028 Elected State Officers.

In 2025, we learned from Hope Driven Parenting Director Dr. Amy Emerson on how to be ambassadors of “Hope” for children in our communities. Kristin Weis, (The Demand Project) educated us on their mission to combat human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. They educate our children, parents, churches, organizations on emerging technological trends/tricks used by online predators, child traffickers/buyers and anyone that seeks to sexually exploit children for commercial and personal gain.



Leslie Clingenpeel MSSL, CDSVRP

Leslie Clingenpeel is our Friday evening convention guest speaker. She was highly recommended to me by the Bureau of Narcotics &

Dangerous Drugs Trafficking Division. She serves as *the Chief Executive Officer of **The Spring** in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, and is a leading advocate for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.*

Done-in-a-Day Project:

THE SPRING

Essential Needs List:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Liquid Body Wash
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hairbrushes
- Socks
- Kleenex
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

Celebration: Thank you for your dedication to improving your communities. Take pride in all you have achieved! At convention, we celebrate our collective achievements. We will also celebrate our wonderful golden members who have served GFWC for 50 plus years and we will celebrate our new state members!

Memorial: Please send an obituary with a photo and write a short paragraph about her club legacy. This is a time to honor and remember those who have long served our communities, clubs, districts, and state. Send to: **State President Charlene Ridgway, 813 West Main Street, Durant, OK 74701** or scan, attach, and email to **ladycharlene62@hotmail.com**

Fundraisers: Each club is to bring one silent auction themed basket valued at \$35 or more. Fundraiser Chairman Sue Hicks will also have a 50/50 drawing.

Door Prizes: Each club to bring one gift card or a nice item. \$15 value.

Convention Room Drawing: GFWC-OK is paying for a one-night convention hotel room for a lucky attendee who **registers by April 6**. Register today to get your name in the drawing!

Friends of GFWC-OK State Convention: Donate to help with convention expenses. Of course, you are welcome to donate more than is suggested on the registration form.

It has been an honor serving as your 2024-2026 State President. I Look Forward to Seeing You in Oklahoma City! **Questions? Text me 580-920-5505**