



GFWC-OKLAHOMA NEWS

GFWC-OK OFFICERS

2024– 2026

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GFWC-OKLAHOMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026 GFWC Oklahoma Convention
 April 24-25
 Renaissance Waterford Hotel
 Oklahoma City, OK

2026 GFWC Annual Convention
 June 25-29
 Westin Kierland Resort & Spa
 Scottsdale, AZ

Our **127th GFWC-OK Convention** is scheduled for **April 24-25**. We will be staying at the Renaissance Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City near Penn Square Mall. Registration is now open. Call Deborah at **405-858-2413** to book your room. Click to [Book your group rate for GFWC-OK 127th Annual St Conf](#). Early Registration will place your name in a drawing for a **FREE one-night (\$136) stay** during convention. Early Registration ends April 6. Tonya Ettner won last year. Saturday complimentary breakfast in the restaurant for those who have a guest room. **FREE Self-Parking** next to hotel.



2026-2027 Club Yearbook Dates

International Day of Service
September 26, 2026

South Central Region Conference
Oct 30-Nov 1 (Mesa, AZ)

GFWC Federation Day
April 24, 2027

2027 Annual Convention
June 25-28 (Charlotte, NC)

Madame President Pays Her Respects at the Gravesite of GFWC’s Federation founder **Jane Cunningham Croly (1828-1901)**



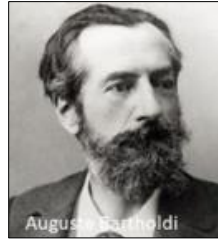
In this quiet moment words were softly spoken by International President Brazil to the woman who sparked the founding of GFWC.



GFWC-OK Executive Officers are pleased to announce that **GFWC International First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth** (Tampa, FL) will be attending our **127th GFWC-OK Annual State Convention** in Oklahoma City on **April 24-25**. First Vice President Frankfurth will bring a brief GFWC welcome and will be presenting a program on **“Connecting GFWC to Communities”** during our general business meeting. Jolie is a dynamic speaker. Please make plans to attend our convention to welcome her.

Pre-convention tour and activity fun, fellowship, and lunch will begin early Friday. Board of Directors meeting will be held after pre-convention fun. Board of Directors meeting will be held after pre-convention fun. Our GFWC-OK Convention Celebration Banquet begins at 6 PM. Look for the Call to Convention late March.





In 2026, the United States will mark two significant anniversaries: **the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks** and **the 250th anniversary of its founding when the Declaration of Independence was signed**. As people reflect on these dates, emotional memories intertwine with national pride.

The Statue of Liberty was officially dedicated on October 28, 1886. In 1865, Édouard de Laboulaye, a French political intellectual and activist, proposed gifting the United States with a statue honoring the centennial of America's independence, the abolition of slavery, and the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi supported Laboulaye's idea, and in 1870 began designing the globally recognized statue, "Liberty Enlightening the World."

The Statue's torch is a symbol of enlightenment, lighting the way to freedom and showing us the path to Liberty.



HAPPY 250 BIRTHDAY AMERICA

I love July 4th. Not just because of the fireworks, barbecue and excitement that Independence Day brings. I love it because it's a holiday that celebrates the greatest gift to humanity... freedom.



DID YOU KNOW?

July 4, 2026, will mark 250 years since the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Founding Father and second President John Adams expected it would be celebrated on July 2—the day delegates voted to break from Great Britain—but the idea didn't catch on. The Declaration of Independence may have been finalized and approved on July 4, 1776, but it wasn't until Aug. 2 that most of the delegates traveled to Philadelphia to sign it.

The first Independence Day celebration took place on the one-year anniversary in 1777. On the Fourth of July, observances didn't become commonplace until after the War of 1812. By the 1870s, July 4 was the "most important secular holiday on the

calendar,” according to the Library of Congress. US Congress declared Independence Day an *unpaid* federal holiday on June 28, 1870, then adjusted it to a paid federal holiday in 1938.

Since July 4, 1776, the US has grown from 13 colonies with 2.5 million people to 50 states and 14 territories with over 342 million people connected by roughly 5,000 airports, 4 million miles of roads, 140,000 miles of train tracks, and 5.5 million miles of power lines. The economy has prospered to nearly \$30T. Public health advances have dwindled the child mortality rate to under 1%, and Americans live over three decades longer on average. Meanwhile, homegrown scientific achievements have delivered everything from the light bulb and modern flight to the internet and air conditioning. We’ve also sent over 300 citizen astronauts to space—the most of any country. An American infant was successfully treated with a novel gene-editing technique, computers are becoming exponentially faster problem solvers, and the James Webb Telescope photographed its first new planet.

America’s story is still unfolding, with new milestones to reach and new challenges to overcome. July 4, 2026, will once again invite us to reflect on our progress. [GFWC-OK encourages clubs to organize or partner with another organization in planning an Independence Day 2026 event for your community](#) and send us photos for the

newsletter/website. Challenge your friends and family to some [patriotic trivia](#). Click the link. Source: 1440 News

Visiting Washington D.C? Hotel Discount Across from Headquarters



Enjoy discounted stays at the Courtyard Marriott Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. (Photo below) Located directly across the street from GFWC Headquarters (photo on left), reserve your room at a discounted rate and explore the historic Dupont Circle neighborhood. If you would like to take a tour of our historic GFWC Headquarters while you are in town, please let headquarters know at www.gfwc.org/tour-requests You do not have to visit headquarters to use this hotel discounted rate.

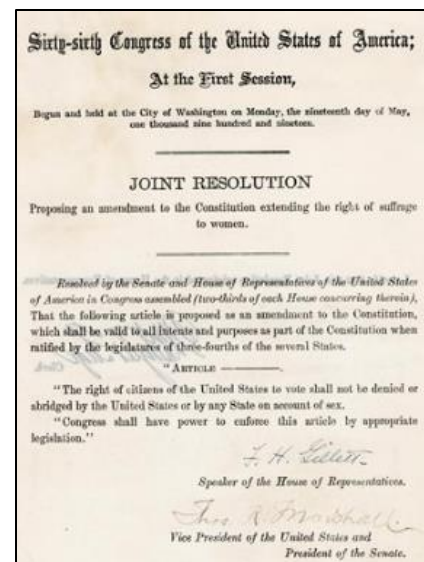


“Why aren’t women’s stories woven into the monumental fabric of the National Mall?”

That is the question the 116th Congress answered when, in celebration of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, bipartisan leaders in Congress unanimously passed a historic bill establishing the Women’s Suffrage National Monument signed by President Trump on December 17, 2020, charging the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation with building a monument in Washington, D.C. dedicated to the great women of American history.

A second bill was required to secure a prominent location for the monument on the National Mall. And once again, congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle came together in overwhelming support of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument,

passing a bill in the final hours of the 118th Congress that cleared the way for the Women’s Suffrage National Monument to be built on the National Mall. President Biden signed on January 4, 2025. On December 4, 2025, the Foundation received final and unanimous approval from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP) for a permanent two-and-a-half-acre site on the National Mall in Constitution Gardens. The exact location—at the intersection of 19th Street and Constitution Avenue NW—where the Women’s Suffrage National Monument will stand on the National Mall, securing its presence among America’s greatest civic tributes. Clever location, don’t you agree? We are now in phase 4 of 7... fundraising. The next phases will then follow: 5) 2026 nationwide call to design the monument, 6) bring design to life, and 7) unveil the monument.



Book Your GFWC Convention Room Today



Attendees will be staying at the beautiful [Westin Kierland Resort & Spa](#), a four-star retreat, in Scottsdale. It is a desert oasis with premier dining, shopping, spa facilities, and local attractions. GFWC's Group Rate is \$209 for a king or double/double. *Please note that the room block closes on June 1 at midnight.*

[Reserve Hotel Room](#)

For more information or assistance, contact GFWC Events Manager Nishu Raina at NRaina@GFWC.org.



Leadership's Role in Creating a Plan of Succession

Tips for succession planning include: identifying current and future challenges and the qualifications needed for leaders; preparing detailed role descriptions outlining responsibilities; establishing timelines for transitions; providing leadership development opportunities for all members to expand their understanding of club, state, region, and international activities; encouraging support for newly appointed officers; and assisting new officers as they adapt to their roles.

Succession planning is about ensuring our organization remains strong, vibrant, and future-focused. When we share responsibilities, provide guidance, and celebrate growth, we build a legacy of leadership that ensures GFWC's mission continues to thrive for generations to come.



Click the Link Below
[Visit the GFWC Learning Academy](#)



MARCH 2026



TAKE ACTION

ADVOCACY IN ACTION > BE THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS! JOIN GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER ON THE WEBSITE. IT'S EASY TO JOIN AND VERY EFFECTIVE. Receive approximately 4-5 emails a year. Click "Take Action" and Click "Send." You are done! It's that easy!

GFWC-OK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Would anyone be interested in volunteering to answer phones in the OKC OETA TV studio during the OETA Live Pledge Festival Night Fundraiser? For the first time since 2019, OETA is bringing back Festival (Live Pledge) and they are inviting community partners to be part of it. Great Team-building and Public Relations opportunity and a powerful way to support local public television!

When: May 30- June 7 (details are being sent)

Volunteer shifts include:

Dinner with the OETA team

Brief Training

Up to 3 hours answering phones

Opportunity to speak briefly on air

We may wear branded apparel

GFWC IS A **NONPARTISAN** ORGANIZATION. ALL GFWC RESOLUTIONS ARE **BIPARTISAN**.

Kids Online Safety: GFWC joined more than 400 organizations to support the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Bill (KOSA, S. 1748), which creates a critical legal duty for platforms to design products that protect minors.

Protect Children from AI Chatbots: GFWC cosigned a [letter of support](#) for the bipartisan GUARD Act (Guidelines for User Age-Verification and Responsible Dialogue Act of 2025, S. 3062). The bill would ban AI Companies from providing AI companions to minors, and mandate that AI companions disclose their non-human status and professional credentials for all users. The bill also creates new crimes for companies that knowingly make available to minors AI companions that solicit or produce sexual content.

Online Safety: The House of Representatives unanimously approved the Combating Online Predators Act to criminalize sextortion, and the Senate unanimously approved the Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits (DEFIANCE) Act which would give victims of deepfake pornography the right to sue those who created or distributed the

images. Look for GFWC legislative alerts in support of these bills in the coming weeks.

Sign Up for Legislative Action Center

SAVE THE DATE
END *Violence* OKLAHOMA
DAY AT THE CAPITOL
March 25th
ROOM: 4s.9

What to Wear: Business Professional (Purple and Teal)
 We are setting up some guest speakers, schedule is pending.

House of Representatives Offices: 405-521-2711
 Senate Offices : 405-524-0126

GFWC-OK clubwomen are invited to set up a GFWC-OK/MMIW table along with other women who wish to **END Violence in Oklahoma**. Stephanie also mentioned to me that we are welcome to walk/be support as they visit with lawmakers on this day. If you and/or any of your clubwomen are interested, please let me know. I will email club presidents as I receive more information.



According to the 2025 Annual Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Report, the number of domestic violence homicides has dropped by almost a third. Oklahoma had fewer domestic violence homicides than in any year since 2017. [In its annual report released this month](#), the board reported 87 domestic violence homicide victims in 2024, representing a 29 percent drop over the previous year. The report found 2024 marks the end of five consecutive years with more than 100 victims

who were killed due to domestic violence in Oklahoma. The number of intimate partner homicide victims fell from 50 in the previous year to 31, which is the second-lowest number recorded in the past decade, the report states. The number of victims killed by family members decreased from 56 to 45, the first drop in five years. Murder-suicide victims dropped from 30 to 20, the lowest since 2018. In 2024, 16 children were killed by family or household members compared to 21 in the previous year, marking the lowest number since 2020, the report states.

THANK YOU, ANADARKO PHILOMATHIC CLUB!

Thank you for inviting me to your club meeting. You are an amazing group of active women living the volunteer spirit!

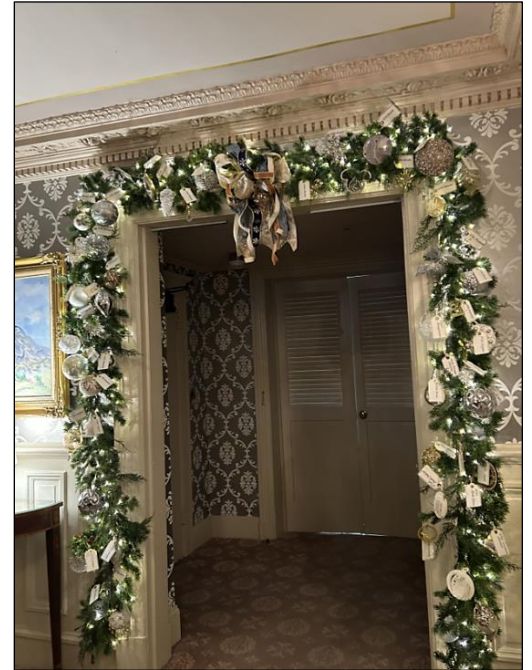


GFWC-OK PHILOMATHIC CLUB OF ANADARKO members Ramona Palmer, Patty Burkhead, Adra Vance, Linda Taylor, Janey Moore, Elizabeth Stephens, Lenna White, Anita Akin, Alexis Hood, Janna Britt, Rochelle Redbone Arebalo. Member Photographer Pam Martin.





During the 2024-2026 two-year administration, President Suellen Brazil asked each state to send a silver, gold, white or crystal Christmas Ornament to be incorporated into the Headquarters Christmas decorations. At the January 2026 Board of Director's Orientation Meeting, I attended a reception at Headquarters and took this photo.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Source: AP News, 2025

For the past couple of years, concerns about cheating at school have dominated the conversation around kids and AI. But artificial intelligence is playing a much larger role in many of their lives. AI, teens say, has become a go-to source for personal advice, emotional support, everyday decision-making and problem-solving. More than 70% of teens have used AI companions and half use them regularly, according to [a new study](#) from Common Sense Media, a group that studies and advocates for using screens and digital media sensibly.

The study defines AI companions as platforms designed to serve as “digital friends.” AI or Replika, can be customized with specific traits or personalities and can offer emotional support, companionship and conversations that can feel human-like. But popular sites like ChatGPT and Claude, which mainly answer questions, are being used in the same way, the researchers say. As the technology rapidly gets more sophisticated, teenagers and experts worry about AI’s potential to redefine human relationships and exacerbate crises of loneliness and youth mental health. “AI is always available. It never gets bored with you. It’s never judgmental,” says Ganesh Nair, an 18-year-old in Arkansas. “When you’re talking to AI, you are always right. You’re always interesting. You are always emotionally justified.” In the Common Sense Media survey, 31% of teens said their conversations with AI companions were “as satisfying or more

satisfying” than talking with real friends. Even though half of teens said they distrust AI’s advice, 33% had discussed serious or important issues with AI instead of real people. Those findings are worrisome, says Michael Robb, the study’s head researcher at Common Sense, and should send a warning to parents, teachers and policymakers. The now-booming and [largely unregulated AI industry](#) is becoming as integrated with adolescence [as smartphones and social media are](#). Adolescence is a critical time for developing identity, social skills and independence, Robb said, and AI companions should complement — not replace — real-world interactions.

“If teens are developing social skills on AI platforms where they are constantly being validated, not being challenged, not learning to read social cues or understand somebody else’s perspective, they are not going to be adequately prepared in the real world,” he said. AI platforms can produce sexual material, give dangerous advice and offer harmful content. The group recommends that minors not use AI companions.

A concerning trend to teens and adults alike

Researchers and educators worry about the cognitive costs for youth who rely heavily on AI, especially in their creativity, critical thinking and social skills. The potential dangers of children forming relationships with chatbots gained national attention last year when a 14-year-old Florida boy died by suicide after developing an emotional attachment [to a Character. AI chatbot](#). More than 70% of teens have used AI [for companionship](#).



[Download Your Copy Today!](#)



GFWC Contests! Information is in the GFWC Club Manual

GFWC Writing Contest

GFWC Photography Contest

GFWC Newsletter Contest

GFWC Website Contest



Member Orientation

Keys to a Successful Membership Orientation Program

A strong membership orientation program helps new and current members feel informed, connected, and motivated to engage with your club from day one! The following are key points for a successful membership orientation program.

1. Set Clear Goals

- Introduce the club's mission, vision, and values
- Show members the benefits and resources available
- Build a welcoming sense of community and belonging

2. Cover the Right Content

- Overview of leadership and organizational structure
- Explanation of member benefits and perks
- Clear outline of member roles, responsibilities, and expectations

3. Engage your Members

- Use interactive activities (icebreakers, group discussions)
- Provide written or digital materials for easy reference
- Allow time for Questions & Answers with leaders or experienced members

4. Strengthen with Follow-Up

- Share recap materials or a welcome packet
- Pair new members with a mentor or buddy
- Host networking or social events to build connections

What good is an idea if it remains an idea?
Try. Experiment. Iterate. Fail. Try Again.
Change the world—

Membership Benefits

By: Bette Kuboushek, GFWC Membership Committee Member



Being a member of GFWC offers a variety of valuable benefits, which typically fall into several key categories:

Skill Development

GFWC offers opportunities to learn new skills in leadership, communication, event planning, time management, staff management, and problem-solving, to name a few.

Community Engagement

Our GFWC efforts strengthen our community ties, helping members better understand local issues and take an active role in addressing needs and developing effective solutions.

Personal Growth

Our GFWC efforts strengthen our community ties, helping members better understand local issues and take an active role in addressing needs and developing effective solutions.

Networking

GFWC connects members with like-minded individuals, expanding social and professional networks and supporting personal and career growth.

Health Benefits

Volunteering benefits mental and physical health. Helping others and staying socially involved can improve mood, reduce stress and depression, and promote a longer, more fulfilling life.

Civic Responsibility

Our work leaves a positive impact, fostering civic responsibility as we collaborate with local leaders and citizens to improve lives.

Want your club featured on the state website or in our state newsletter? Send photo to Charlene and/or Monica. Tell us about your club projects. Website: gfwc-ok.org Facebook: GFWC Oklahoma