

Unity in Diversity
**How to Build
NEW GFWC Clubs
Part II**



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READY FOR THE SECOND

NEW CLUB MEETING!

- ❖ Members of the New Club Formation Team should attend the second meeting of the new club at the previously determined location. Important business is conducted at this meeting to keep the momentum going. It's important that the *GFWC Meeting Chairman* conduct an open, interactive meeting to start instilling a sense of ownership in the members.
 - Everyone should still be using nametags and introductions all around should be made. Special welcome is extended to newcomers who did not attend the first meeting.
 - Ask for a volunteer (perspective member) who would be comfortable jotting down for future reference ideas and suggestions given at this meeting.
 - *GFWC Meeting Chairman* should explain that at some time in the near future Bylaws will have to be drawn up. The new club members should be thinking about potential Bylaws Committee members, as well as their Leadership Team (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.).
 - Discuss choosing a name for the club, its purpose and mission, and amount of dues to be collected. This information will be taken into consideration when writing Bylaws in the future. The club name must include *GFWC* (ex. *GFWC Woman's Club of Happy City*).
 - Have a New Club Formation Team member or mentoring club member make a brief presentation on the *GFWC Community Service Programs* for information purposes. The club will choose the program and/or projects in which it wants to become involved at a later date. However, it makes sense for them to know what kind of program support is available through *GFWC* and from the state Federation. Share examples of projects in which state clubs are involved. Keep it simple and non-threatening.
 - Encourage each woman to share information with the group about some project or program in which she is involved that other women might enjoy.



These are potential future projects for the club to consider. As an added value, members will get to know each other better and have a sense of the range of projects on which they can work.

- Conduct a small workshop of a “hands-on” project where the new club members can bond as they are working together. An example of a “hands-on” project that could be completed in a short period of time is writing cards to our service members thanking them for all they do and then sending the cards to the local USO to distribute.
- Interaction among attendees will increase their sense of involvement and ownership in the club. Smaller groups should be encouraged to engage in informal, free-wheeling, general discussion on all topics raised. Larger groups may have to be divided into “discussion groups” to allow each person a chance to have her voice heard.
- ❖ At the conclusion of this second meeting, determine by consensus the time and place of the next meeting. The GFWC Meeting Chairman may ask a prospective club member to make the necessary arrangements (securing the space, etc.) New club members may also be asked to provide refreshments.

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS PRIOR TO CHARTERING THE NEW CLUB

- ❖ A GFWC New Club Formation Team member or mentoring club representative attends all meetings of the new club, gradually transferring administrative responsibilities to the new club.
- ❖ New Club chooses a name and establishes dues (be sure to include state and GFWC dues).
- ❖ Bylaws are drawn up by the Bylaws Committee and adopted by the club. (See Sample Bylaws)
- ❖ New Club elects a Leadership Team (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) Group decides whether they want to use a Nominating Committee.
- ❖ New Clubs democratically chooses a project based on community needs and/or suggestions from previous meetings.



- A short-term project providing immediate gratification would be collecting books for a local school library - this shows the group working together as a team for a common goal - to provide new books for the school library! As a bonus you can take photos of the group with the books and post on social media to garner further interest.
- ❖ Involvement of state and district leadership is **VITAL** to a new club's success! Those charged with forming new clubs should be accountable to the State President and/or District President and officers. ***Membership is a Leadership Issue that all members of GFWC share in the responsibility.***
- ❖ A semi-permanent bond, preferably in the form of a "mentoring" club, is VITAL! It's important to know that the fledgling club does not founder. With support, they will be grateful, they will know the value of GFWC to their club, and they will thrive.
- ❖ The New Club Formation Team guides the new club through the club membership application process. Membership applications and eligibility requirements are established at the state level. Remember, new clubs become members of GFWC, and receive GFWC materials, when club dues and names of officers are received at GFWC Headquarters from the state federation.
- ❖ Present the new club with their Charter at a State meeting. Everyone should enjoy the celebration of accepting a new club into the GFWC family! The new club deserves the recognition and it will reaffirm for others in the state that it is possible to form new clubs.
- ❖ If possible, have either the State President, District President or a State Board of Directors member install the officers of the new club. Again, this reinforces the connection of the club to GFWC and lets them know how important they are to our organization. GFWC has a Ceremonies Guide available in the GFWC Marketplace.
- ❖ Provide the new club with a prototype for their club brochure. If your state does not already provide this service to its member clubs, then start now. This is a valuable service to your clubs and once designed it can be emailed to each of the clubs throughout your state.
- ❖ If your state can afford to, provide the new club president with your state's pin or the club president's pin available in the GFWC Market Place.



- ❖ Make sure that representatives from the new club attend district and state meetings right from the start and that all the club members are encouraged to attend, not just the club officers. A personal invitation or offer to drive will help!
- ❖ Slowly but surely let the members of the new club take over. Refreshments that had previously been supplied by others can be provided by new club members. Club officers prepare and present the programs. The meeting place is well-established.
- ❖ The New Club Formation Team or the mentoring club can provide suggestions for:
 - Programs
 - Projects
 - Fundraising
 - Administrative duties
- ❖ After the club is on its feet and has accomplished at least one successful project, highlight or spotlight the club in the state magazine or at a state meeting. Celebrate their success!
- ❖ The New Club Formation Team should be prepared to nurture the new club for at least one year! **A state president once said: "It's easy to start a club. The trick is to keep it going for the first few years. Don't discontinue state/district involvement too soon. If the new club wants help at a Board Meeting.....Go. If the new club wants suggestions for projects...give them. If the new club wants hands-on assistance with a fundraiser, provide it."**
- ❖ When it appears that the club has a firm foundation, cut back on the visits, but follow-up with an occasional phone call. Don't ever lose your sense of accomplishment and pride in the new clubs. Like a proud parent, let them go but never forget them.



CLUB BUILDING RESOURCE LIST

Members of the *General Federation of Women's Clubs* have access to a network of support - people and materials - to help accomplish the goal of forming new *GFWC* clubs. By filling in the blanks below, there is an instant list of resources ready and willing to assist in the club building process. Be sure to use them!

- State Federation President:
 - Cell Phone/Email:

- State Federation Director of Junior Clubs (if applicable):
 - Cell Phone/Email:

- State Federation Membership Chairman:
 - Cell Phone/Email:

- New Club Formation Team Chairman:
 - Cell Phone/Email:

- *GFWC* Membership Chairman: Becky Wright
 - Cell Phone/Email: 662-983-8836/email

- *GFWC* Membership Committee Regional Representative:
 - Cell Phone/Email:

- ***GFWC* Headquarters Membership Services Manager**

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General Federation of Women's Clubs

FEDERATION FACTS

In the Know

Founded in 1890, GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman's club—Soros. In celebration of Soros's 21st anniversary in 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women's Club by ratifying the GFWC constitution.

- ✓ Soros is the name of the club to which GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly belonged. Its name is a botanical term which means "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits, as in the pineapple."
- ✓ Ellen Demorest, co-founder of Soros, was the inventor of mass-produced paper sewing patterns. They were included in her magazine, Mme. Demorest's Mirror of Fashions. Jane Croly was the chief staff writer for the magazine.
- ✓ In 1906, GFWC secured the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act.
- ✓ In 1916, GFWC suggested that special naturalization services be made part of Independence Day celebrations. It is still a tradition today.
- ✓ During World War I, GFWC raised \$4,880,000 in Liberty Bonds, \$90,000 for the Red Cross, \$55,106 for camp libraries, and \$89,788 for the YMCA.
- ✓ Jane Addams (founder of Hull House in Chicago), Julia Ward Howe (author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic) and Eleanor Roosevelt were all clubwomen.
- ✓ GFWC was an important force in founding America's first national park and supported the creation of the National Park Service. Each federation established a park within their state. Many, such as Everglades National Park, were handed over to the National Park Service and now are enjoyed by millions.
- ✓ GFWC began a campaign to name official state birds and flowers in the 1920's.



- ✓ By 1933, GFWC had founded 75% of America's public libraries, as well as pioneered the idea of bookmobiles.
- ✓ Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson (GFWC President, 1935-1938) was half Delaware Indian. She published books on Native American music, as well as transcribed Lakota chants. When she died, her vast collection of Native American artifacts was donated to the Philbrook Museum in Oklahoma.
- ✓ During World War II, GFWC raised \$101,617,750 to buy bombers, \$154,459,132 to buy planes, and \$90,794,182 to Victory Loans. State federations provided \$234,834 in scholarships and \$46,601 in loans to train nurses. The Federation recruited over 6,000 young women for the Cadet Nurse Corps. Over 4,500 Juniors enlisted in the various services established for women.
- ✓ Many modern safety measures were early GFWC programs. The Federation had campaigns for seatbelts in all cars, streetlights on neighborhood streets and accurate labeling of food and medications.
- ✓ In 1994: GFWC founder Jane Cunningham Croly was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.
- ✓ In 1997: GFWC renewed its commitment to libraries with the Libraries 2000 project. Over a five-year period, GFWC clubwomen raised and donated \$13.5 million to public libraries and public-school libraries across the nation.
- ✓ During the 2000s, GFWC members contributed \$180,000 for a fully-equipped ambulance for use by the New York Fire Department in response to the loss of equipment suffered during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- ✓ In 2011, GFWC introduced the *Success For Survivors Scholarship*, created as part of our efforts to highlight the importance of rebuilding one's life after experiencing intimate partner violence. Each year, GFWC awards \$2,500 scholarships to help intimate partner survivors obtain a post-secondary education that will offer them the chance to reshape their future by securing employment and gaining personal independence.
- ✓ In 2015, GFWC Celebrated its 125th Anniversary in Baltimore, Maryland.



General Federation of Women's Clubs

Where to Look for Members

Look at your community and think creatively about where potential members can be found. Think beyond known boundaries. Don't forget the most important member recruitment technique: ASK!!!!

Where can we find NEW RESIDENTS?

Churches/Religious Institutions
Local Newspapers
Homeowner's Associations
Senior Centers
Grocery Stores
Hair and Nail Salons
SOCIAL MEDIA

Realtors/Rental Agents
Welcome Wagon/Newcomers
Local Chamber of Commerce
Retirement Communities
Libraries
College Campus

Where we can we find WOMEN INTERESTED IN HEALTH ISSUES?

Cancer Survivors
Nurses
Fitness Clubs
Women Legislators
Farmers Markets
Libraries
Adult Day Care
SOCIAL MEDIA

Medical Employees
PTA/PTO
AARP
Hospital Auxiliaries/Volunteers
DARE (local chapter)
Support groups for caretakers
Veterinarians

Where can we find WOMEN INTERESTED IN LITERACY ISSUES?

Reading Teachers
Adult Ed Staff
Libraries
Teacher's Association
Book Clubs
Publishing Companies
Education Sororities
Business Community
Retired Teachers Association
GED Instructors

Pre-schools/MOM Programs
Literacy Volunteer Agencies
PTA/PTO
Church education groups
Writers Associations
Children's Hospitals
Head Start Program
Boy Scouts/Girls Scouts
County Council
SOCIAL MEDIA

Where can we find PRE-RETIREMENT WORKING WOMEN?



School/Teachers
Corporations
Aerobic/Fitness Classes
Churches
Night Schools
Military Installations
Garden Clubs
Golf Courses
Banks
50+ Clubs

Doctor/Dentist Offices
Dance Classes
Hospitals
Hair/Nail Salons
Theater Volunteers
Travel Agents
Libraries
Stock Market Clubs
Craft Groups
SOCIAL MEDIA

Where can we find WOMEN AVAILABLE IN THE DAYTIME?

Second/Third Shift Employees
Shopping Centers
Health Clubs
College Students
Parks
Hair/Nail Salons
PTA/PTO
Libraries

Church Circles
Senior Citizen Luncheons
Self-employed
Retirement Homes
Pre-Schools/MOM Programs
Craft Stores
Coffee Shops
SOCIAL MEDIA

Where can we find WOMEN WITH ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS?

Elementary School Teachers
Caterers
Youth Group Leaders
Fundraising Coordinators
Past presidents of other groups
Day Care Center Directors

Event Planners
Administrative Assistants
Theater Groups
Seminar Planners
Speakers Bureau
SOCIAL MEDIA

This is just the beginning of where you can find members for your club, but there are many more that you can add! Just get your group together and brainstorm and you will be amazed at how many people you really know!!



Benefits of Belonging

General Federation of Women's Clubs

"Living the Volunteer Spirit"

Membership in *GFWC* is first and foremost about volunteerism. In all 50 states and more than a dozen countries, or members work together to create global change. *GFWC* clubwomen are mothers, wives, daughters, doctors, teachers, and community leaders who are dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

The greatest benefit of membership is being part of a world-wide volunteer movement of women working to better the lives of countless men, women, and children all over the world. The collective impact of *GFWC* clubwomen working together to assist those in need demonstrates the true power of Federation.

Individual Rewards

- Free tours of *GFWC*'s Historic Headquarters
- *GFWC.org* Website
- *GFWC* Club Manual
- Subscription to weekly E-Newsletter "News & Notes"
- *GFWC* Clubwoman Magazine
- *GFWC* on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram
- *GFWC* Blog updated weekly
- *GFWC* Annual Convention
- *GFWC* Legislative Action Center
- *GFWC* Membership Discounts
 - Veterinary Pet Insurance - VPI
 - Travel
 - Avis
 - Budget
 - Collette Guided Tours
 - Cruises Only
 - Motel 6
 - Orlando Vacations
 - Red Roof Inn
 - TNT Vacations
 - Wyndham Hotel
 - American Hearing Benefits



- Office Depot

Club Rewards

- **GFWC Club Manual**
- **Partner with Nationally Recognized Community Service Projects**
 - Prevent Child Abuse
 - March of Dimes
 - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 - Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership
 - Canine Companions for Independence
 - Easterseals
 - Heifer Project International
 - Operation Smile
 - United Nations Foundation Shot@Life
 - U.S. Fund for UNICEF
 - USO
- **Group Tax-Exemption Status**
- **Professional assistance with Club History Projects**
 - Through our Women's History and Resource Center
- **Programming Support and Training through the GFWC Staff**
- **Access to Liability Coverage**
- **GFWC Resolutions**
- **GFWC Bylaws**
- **Eligibility for GFWC Awards, Contests and Grants**
- **LEADS Officer Training**
- **Endorsed Fundraisers**
 - Flower Power
 - Terri Lynn
- **GFWC Marketplace**
- **GFWC Mentors**

The most significant benefit of belonging to GFWC is the support, encouragement, comfort, enthusiasm, creativity, and friendship shared by members from all walks of life, with varied perspectives, diverse backgrounds and different experiences.

