



GFWC Women's History & Resource Center

2014-2016

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The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center manages the organizational archives of the General Federation of Women's clubs, related special collections, and a complementary research library. Our Archives document GFWC's historical development from 1890 to the present, including the role of GFWC clubwomen in promoting education, leadership, and social & political advocacy in the broad community service program areas.

Special collections held by the WHRC include State Federation & club histories, oral histories, photographs, and art & artifacts. GFWC's most significant artifact is our headquarters in Washington DC which was designated as a National Historic landmark in 1991.

The research library consists of nearly 5,000 publications that focus on the history of GFWC and women volunteers.

Resource Materials

- 2014-2016 GFWC Club Manual - Women's History & Resource Center Advancement Guide
- GFWC web site – www.gfwc.org (click on *WHRC* tab)
- GFWC web site – *Marketplace* tab for brochures & pins

How can the WHRC help you and your club?

- Publications: WHRC has resources to assist clubs in recording oral histories of longtime members. There are 2 guides available to help you with the project – *A Guide For Recording Oral History* that has sample interview questions and *A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History*. You are able to download both of these publications from the GFWC website or you may request a free copy from headquarters.
- When planning and publicizing a membership recruitment program, highlight your club's history & Federation history to demonstrate the importance of your club to your community.
- Develop a proactive public awareness program by offering GFWC history stories or tidbits to your local news media for Women's History Month, Federation Day and Archives Month.
- Use the WHRC online catalog to review past GFWC Community Improvement Program Award Winners to gain inspiration and ideas for fundraising and/or community outreach.

How can you & your club support the work of the WHRC?

- Join the Friends of the WHRC
These contributions go toward maintaining the collections and increasing library acquisitions. Donations also fund the purchase of archive materials and supplies.
- Become a 1734 Society Member
These donations support the preservation of GFWC Headquarters.
- Volunteer as a docent at GFWC Headquarters
- Become an onsite or long distance volunteer. They need help digitizing or transcribing audiotapes.
- Promote the WHRC collections, services, and student field study opportunities to local colleges, universities, and historical institution.
- Promote and attend the Women's History Month event held each year at headquarters.
- Purchase an item on the WHRC Wish List.

Project Ideas

- Record oral histories of your seasoned members.
- Produce or update your club's history.
- Work with your local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history.
- Research prominent GFWC members and include articles in your club newsletter.
- Observe Women's History Month
Sponsor an essay contest in your local schools - "Local Women Volunteers"
Proclamation from City Council or County Supervisors, highlighting your club's and GFWC's accomplishments.
- Observe Federation Day – April 2015 is our 125th Anniversary
- Visit GFWC Headquarters.