

**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
OF VIRGINIA**

CURRENT RESOLUTIONS

2016-2018



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**Members can obtain a copy of the GFWC Resolutions from the GFWC Materials Center.
Call-202-347-3168 for more information.

STANDING RULES GOVERNING RESOLUTIONS (Revised May 3, 1998)

GENERAL:

Resolutions upon adoption become an integral part of the policy of GFWC Virginia.

The subject matter of all resolutions shall be germane to the interests or work of GFWC Virginia and must be statewide in scope.

Responsibility for carrying out the intent of resolutions devolves upon the President of GFWC Virginia, the State and District Chairmen to whose work it is germane, the Chairman of Legislation, and member clubs.

Any group wishing to propose a resolution shall first submit it to the chairman to whose work it is germane, for an opinion.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Proposed resolutions may be submitted by the following: The Executive Board, the Junior Executive Board, a District or Club, a GFWC Virginia Chairman of a Department, Program or Committee of GFWC Virginia. Resolutions may originate within the Resolutions Committee.

Resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committee shall be typewritten.

A properly signed original and six copies must be furnished to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee by November 1, and a copy shall be sent to the President of GFWC Virginia. Any resolutions involving a Bill or a legal document must be accompanied by two typed copies of such "Bill or legal document" to assist the Committee in interpreting the resolutions. When a resolution is submitted to the Committee for consideration, supportive data and information must accompany the proposed resolution.

Only emergency resolutions shall be accepted after November 1.

Resolutions, except emergency resolutions, to be presented to a convention body shall be incorporated in the CALL TO CONVENTION.

A resolution presented to the Resolutions Committee which is not approved by that Committee may be introduced by its proponent as a motion at the next GFWC Virginia Convention as a matter of new business. The President and the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee shall be notified at least ten days prior to the convention.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS:

Emergency resolutions are those whose subject matter has arisen since the preparation of the last CALL, or those which are governed by a definite time value and upon which delayed action would be disadvantageous. Emergency resolutions to be presented in Convention shall be distributed to the voting delegates no later than four o'clock of the day before consideration by the Convention. Emergency resolutions to be brought to the delegate body must have the consent of the Resolutions Committee and the GFWC Virginia President.

LIFE OF RESOLUTION:

Resolutions establishing the general policy of GFWC Virginia shall continue in effect until their purpose has been accomplished or the resolution has been rescinded by the delegate body. All resolutions which have been in force for four years shall be automatically reviewed by the Resolutions Committee for

timeliness, change of opinion, etc. The power to edit a resolution without changing the fundamental principle of the resolution shall be vested in the Resolutions Committee.

RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS:

Proposals to rescind an active resolution of GFWC Virginia shall come from at least two of those persons or groups eligible to present resolutions and such proposals shall follow the usual procedures for consideration of resolutions.

Intention to rescind shall be incorporated in the CALL TO CONVENTION at which action is to be taken.

MINORITY OPINION:

On all votes on questions of legislative policy which are not unanimous, the fact that there was a minority opinion shall be recorded in the minutes. When a club wishes to register a minority stand, they shall send a letter to the GFWC Virginia President and Legislative Chairman within sixty days after adoption of the resolutions stating the reasons for their dissent.

GENERAL FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS:

Resolutions in effect in the General Federation of Women's Clubs become the policy of GFWC Virginia unless dissenting opinion is voted by GFWC Virginia in convention.

TO DISSENT FROM GENERAL FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS:

Proposals to dissent from General Federation resolutions shall come from at least two of those persons or groups eligible to present resolutions, provided the GFWC Virginia President has been notified of proposed action ten days prior to the opening of the convention.

Should the Convention body approve a proposal to dissent from a resolution adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, written notice of such action shall be forwarded to the President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC Chairman to which the resolution is germane. In supporting the action taken, GFWC Virginia members shall state that this is a minority opinion of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

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CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Increased population, urbanization and industrial development make the restoration and preservation of a clean environment imperative, and

WHEREAS, The use of biodegradable products and recycling conserves the use of natural resources, helps protect and improve land, air, and water resources, conserves energy otherwise used in the securing, transporting, and manufacturing of products from primary raw materials, and reduces the amount of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, Education alone has failed to alleviate the problem of litter, and illegal dumping along the highways and country roads detracts from the scenic beauty, has offensive odors, presents fire and health hazards, and depreciates real estate values, and constitutes a danger to wildlife; and

WHEREAS Virginia is running out of areas for refuse disposal, therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that there be continuous research:

To prevent pollution of the environment, and

To find reasonable and effective means of correcting existing pollution on local, national and international levels, and

To find the most effective means of using local, state, national and private funds, services and initiatives to maintain a clean environment; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to join their efforts with that of governmental, business and volunteer organizations in a program of research, education and service which will insure a clean environment for all people, as rapidly as possible.

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that appropriate state, local and volunteer agencies and institutions commence a concentrated educational program in litter clean-up in Virginia; and further

RESOLVED, That the anti-litter laws be strictly enforced; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its membership to encourage the use of returnable and reusable containers whenever possible; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon business and industry in Virginia to continue to cooperate with citizens, localities and the state government in an effort to preserve the environment of the Commonwealth.

Submitted By
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1985
Reviewed 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Amended 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

CONSERVATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY

WHEREAS, The Chesapeake Bay is an important natural resource, and the confluence of Virginia's four major rivers and it is therefore essential to the water quality of the Bay that these waterways be subject to controls and standards set by law; and

WHEREAS, The run-off from industrial plants, chemicals from farms, homes along the water's edge which fail to incorporate storm water control practices, and use of poisonous compounds from whatever sources interfere with the ecological balance of the seafood chain which is vital to the economy of the state; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing a habitat for fish, wildlife, and a variety of other organisms, wetlands play an important role in flood protection, prevention of shoreline erosion, and water quality control; therefore,

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor, the Virginia General Assembly and environmental regulatory agencies in the Commonwealth to continue ongoing successful programs, and to initiate measures that are designed to revive and to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Submitted By
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1986
Substituted 1987
Edited 1991
Substituted 1995
Reviewed 2001
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

ENERGY

WHEREAS, Security and economic well-being demand a balanced use of energy resources, therefore;

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to promote and conduct conservation programs which relate to reducing the level of energy consumption; and further\

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges governments, private industry and consumers to:

Focus public attention on the need for adequate energy and the need for coordinated energy policies

Encourage balance between the interest of proper management of resources, adequate water supplies and protection of wildlife, with the interest of energy production; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges governments and private industry to research, explore, and develop efficient and effective energy sources.

Adopted 1981
Reviewed 1986
Reviewed 1990
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1998
Rewritten 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

WHEREAS, The gradual erosion and disappearance of the physical reminders of our cultural and historical heritage through disinterest, neglect or destruction is a nationwide occurrence; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia is richly endowed with historic sites and homes whose identification, preservation and restoration, in order to prevent the loss of the visible forms of Virginia's heritage, should be a paramount importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is the State Historic Preservation Office whose mission is to foster, encourage and support stewardship of Virginia's significant historic architectural and cultural resources; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports necessary legislation to further develop the program and purpose of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in establishing and requiring adherence to high standards in historical preservation and restoration; and

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to enlist the aid of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as they seek out and authenticate existing historical sites unique to their specific area and that voluntary community resources be marshaled for this effort.

Adopted 1971

Reviewed 1986

Reviewed 1990

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1998

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

Amended 2015

PRESERVATION OF STATE PARKS SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The primary mission of Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas is conservation and preservation of the diversity of Virginia's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas provide opportunities for affordable recreation and environmental education for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas provide a legacy of beauty and natural heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Careless land use can cause irreversible damage and loss of Virginia's diversity of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Privatization of Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas may conflict with the goals of conservation and preservation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Increased fees for profit may lead to exclusion and deny citizens the opportunity to enjoy Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is committed to preserving and protecting Virginia's diversity of beauty and natural resources through its support of State Parks and Natural Areas; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia re-affirms its support of a State Parks system and opposes privatization and/or efforts to dismantle the Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas.

Submitted by
Appomattox Junior Woman's Club

Edited by GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee 1996
Amended 2001
Edited 2004
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

PUBLIC PARKS

WHEREAS, Public parks provide Virginians and visitors alike, with opportunities for leisure activities; and

WHEREAS, Public parks provide not only beauty, but relaxation and playgrounds as well as nature trails and protection of endangered species; and

WHEREAS, All too often, parks are forced to close or restrict access to some areas because of vandalism and the lack of proper supervision due to insufficient funds; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia support public parks by working as volunteers and urging the appropriate authorities to provide adequate funds to police the parks and keep them open.

Submitted by
Conservation Department and Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1986
Reviewed 1990
Reviewed and Edited 1994
Reviewed 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Amended 2014

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

WHEREAS, The beautiful natural scenery in Virginia is one of our State's greatest assets; and

WHEREAS, The scenic attractiveness of the Virginia countryside is in too many instances marred by unsightly advertising, automobile graveyards, and other junk yards; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports the efforts of local and state authorities to control unsightly advertising, automobile graveyards, and junk yards which mar the natural beauty of Virginia's countryside.

Reaffirmed 1967

Reviewed 1979

Reviewed 1986

Edited 1987

Reviewed 1991

Reviewed and Edited 1995

Reviewed 2001

Reviewed 2004

Reviewed 2007

Amended 2009

Reviewed 2014

TRASH IMPORTS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has a long history of being concerned with the protection of the environment in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is concerned with Virginia's scenic beauty and the health of Virginia's citizens; and

WHEREAS, A continuation of the marketing of trash imports into the Commonwealth of Virginia will result in a risk to Virginia's scenic beauty and the health of Virginia's citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia encourages club members to support legislation and local ordinances that would control the amount of imported trash into Virginia; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor, the Virginia General Assembly, appropriate state agencies, and local governing bodies to exercise restraint in permitting Virginia to become a marketplace for trash imports.

Submitted by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1999
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, Preservation of the water supply on the planet is of constant concern, and the projected use of the water by the expanding population could exhaust the available supply within the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that as the world's population grows, the main resource problem will be water; and

WHEREAS, Rehabilitation and preservation of watersheds and wetlands are important factors both for water supply and water quality; and

WHEREAS, No single governmental water policy could be applicable to all parts of the nation where there are vast differences of water supply and water problems; and

WHEREAS, An immediate program of action is necessary to forestall the impending water crisis and yet not work an undue hardship on any segment of society; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation at the State level that will provide a program of action to:

Expand the existing supply of usable water by improved methods of desalinization of sea water, protection of ground water, and establish inspection procedures to assure stringent compliance with and strict enforcement of federal, state and local regulations;

Prohibit any further pollution of the State's streams and domestic water supply;

Assist persons, governmental units, and industrial enterprises now polluting the State's streams and domestic water supplies in making such changes as necessary to bring an end to water pollution and to encourage financial assistance in the form of tax incentives or by other means of "cost-sharing" so that the cost may be spread over the society which benefits; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Virginia urges appropriate government entities to implement an overall program which will ensure the necessary supply of water for future generations by:

Protecting watershed lands while encouraging proper and adequate management for all privately owned watershed lands by providing technical and cost-sharing assistance

Encouraging further research into water filtration and desalination methods

Enforcing the Clean Water Act and other relevant laws; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Virginia urges the enactment of legislation at all levels that will protect and expand the existing supply of usable water.

Submitted by

Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1986

Reviewed 1990

Reviewed 1994

Edited 1998

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, There are many school children in Virginia whose knowledge of the English language limits participation in regular school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, In most cases, bilingual instruction is expensive and there are insufficient funds and a shortage of qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, Federal mandates in bilingual education foster federal control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, The Virginia State Department of Education supports the provision of services to students of limited English speaking proficiency and recommends English to Speakers of Other Languages, ESOL; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports the premise that English is the official language of the United States of America and that teaching in another language discourages students from mastering English, and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia will work to assure that bilingual education is available where needed, and that methods of implementation be left to the individual school districts; and further

RESOLVED, That the members of GFWC Virginia volunteer in their communities to help with implementation of bilingual education where feasible and provide training and tutors where needed.

Submitted by
GFWC Virginia Education Department and Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1982
Reviewed 1986
Edited 1988
Reaffirmed 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Amended 2014

CHRONIC TRUANCY

WHEREAS, Chronic Truancy is often indicative of possible substance abuse/mental health problems, and often leads to juvenile criminal behavior, and it is imperative that it be addressed as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to strengthen and clarify the definition of chronic truancy in the Virginia Code; and

WHEREAS, In cases of Chronic Truancy assistance is available through intervention of the Juvenile Court pursuant to Virginia Code 16.1 278.1-14; and

WHEREAS, Chronic Truancy cannot be addressed effectively without vigorous support of the parents, public and the complete commitment of the school system; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges all Virginia parents, communities and School Systems to make a determined effort to attack chronic truancy as delineated in the Virginia Code, and if that effort fails to seek Juvenile Court intervention pursuant to Virginia Code 16.1 278.1-14.

Submitted by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1994
Substituted 1996
Reviewed 2001
Edited 2004
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014
Reaffirmed 2015

EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The strength and excellence of achievement in the Commonwealth of Virginia will result from the educational level of the young people; and

WHEREAS, Adequate funding is necessary for the development of effective school curricula; and

WHEREAS, Overcrowded classrooms foster a disruptive learning environment; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to participate in volunteer programs with the schools in their respective localities.

Adopted 1969

Reviewed 1977-78-85-89

Substituted 1992

Substituted 1995

Reviewed 1999

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

Amended 2015

LITERACY

WHEREAS, There are a significant number of adults and children in the United States who are functional illiterates, and reading limitations produce serious dislocations in the economic and social welfare of the American people; and

WHEREAS, There has been increased public awareness of the problem of illiteracy, teaching resources devoted to providing literacy skills are growing slowly while demands for these services are increasing dramatically; now therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges any necessary changes in the state educational codes, making courses in all approved methods of teaching reading (including the intensive phonics method) mandatory in accredited colleges and universities for the granting of the elementary and secondary teacher's certificate; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports the improved interpretation of test data to better inform the public regarding the achievement of the pupils; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to:
Take an active part in their communities to urge schools to institute classes in remedial reading, special services of reading specialists, training of administrators in reading, assistance of teacher aides for individual instruction and projects in improved reading comprehension in grades one through twelve; and
Enter into programs to teach children and/or adults in each community on a volunteer basis in conjunction with the Right to Read Program of the Federal Government; and further

RESOLVED, That to better implement reading programs, members of GFWC Virginia work to reduce the class size where necessary in local schools and marshal and direct our resources to the end that all public school children will develop proficiency in reading commensurate with their abilities.

Adopted 1975
Reviewed 1979
Reviewed 1985
Reviewed 1989
Edited 1994
Reviewed 1997
Edited 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Article I of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States provides that ‘Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof’; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes and appreciates the fact that our nation was founded upon religious faith and freedom and realizes that failure to perpetuate these ideals will destroy our survival as “One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia believes the best solution to solving the issue of prayer in schools may be found in returning the decision making process on prayer in schools to the individual states; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges every club woman to work actively for the freedom to allow religious observance in all American schools, if participation therein is not made compulsory.

Adopted 1981
Reviewed 1986
Reviewed 1990
Reviewed 1994
Edited 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, The theft, vandalism, personal assaults and bullying on students, teachers, and personnel in the schools are alarming; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime and violence disrupt schools and interfere with the educational process; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to promote programs to reduce school crime and disruption by working with representatives from the school and community to:

Study the local situation;

Determine a course of action;

Implement programs of prevention and correction when needed; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to participate actively in local government and school board meetings, urging the regulations and policy be more direct and specific in response to discipline situations resulting in stricter control and more timely solutions, including expulsion.

Adopted 1978

Reviewed 1985

Reaffirmed 1989

Reviewed and edited 1995

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

SOCIAL SERVICES PROFESSION

WHEREAS, A primary concern of social services should be preventive, protective and rehabilitative services to public assistance recipients and children in foster care, which services contribute to the self-sufficiency and dignity of people; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to attract a sufficient number of well qualified and career minded personnel into the Department of Social Services through adequate professional compensation; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges state and local governments to take appropriate action to assure a program of prevention, protective and rehabilitative services to those who need them; and

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to encourage well qualified persons to enter social service work and related professions.

Reaffirmed as rewritten 1970

Reviewed 1978

Reviewed 1986

Reviewed 1990

Reviewed 1994

Edited 1998

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

SUPPORT OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes the value and importance of good classroom teachers in the achieving of excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, The impact of a teacher on the individual child is invaluable in the development of a sense of self-worth in that child; and

WHEREAS, Retention of good teachers is necessary for quality education; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia declares its continued support of teachers' salaries that are commensurate with ability; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly to appropriate adequate funding for teachers' salaries.

Adopted 1995

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

SUPPORT OF THE ARTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The arts enhance life in all its dimensions; and

WHEREAS, Art serves as a vehicle for communication not always achieved by presentation of historical and scientific fact; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that arts in the broadest sense be integrated into curricula of preschools, elementary and secondary schools and as many aspects of community life as possible; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to encourage promotion and funding for all the arts, both visual and performing, in schools and communities.

Submitted By
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1982
Edited 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reaffirmed 2009
Reviewed 2014

ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), coronary heart attack, stroke, and related diseases, are the primary cause of death among women; and

WHEREAS, Risk of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), coronary heart attack, stroke, and related diseases, increases with age; and

WHEREAS, Surveys by the American Heart Association have revealed that women often fail to recognize the symptoms of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), coronary heart attack, stroke, and related diseases, and fail to seek medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, Medical research, education, treatment and testing designed for women at risk of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), coronary heart attack, stroke, and related diseases, have developed slowly; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia encourages its members to be responsive to the symptoms of Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS), coronary heart attack, stroke, and related diseases, and seek adequate medical attention.

Submitted by
Northumberland Junior Woman's Club
Amended by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1999
Amended 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reaffirmed 2009
Amended 2014

BREAST CANCER

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control reports that one in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases as she gets older; and

WHEREAS, The stage at which breast cancer is diagnosed is a major predictor of survival, with early detection significantly lowering the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Self-examination by palpation, regular physical examination by a physician, especially when there is a family history of cancer, and mammography (x-ray) dense tissue test are screen methods that assist in early cancer detection; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends breast cancer screening every year for women 40 years and over; and

WHEREAS, Private and government insurance does not, in all cases, cover annual screening for women; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia continues to raise women's awareness and encourages their participation in breast cancer screening; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls to the attention of the health community continued support for research into breast cancer prevention.

Adopted 1998

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Amended 2014

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia is divided into Planning Districts; and

WHEREAS, Each Virginia Planning District is endowed with a Community Services Board whose mission is to coordinate and provide services in health, mental health, intellectual disability and substance abuse disorders in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Community Services Boards have knowledge of resources and needs in their service areas; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to work cooperatively with Community Services Boards to strengthen the effectiveness of effort and increase the ability to serve the physical and mental health needs of the affected population in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges continued legislative support of the Community Services Board system.

Submitted by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1987
Reviewed 1991
Reviewed and Edited 1995
Amended 2001
Edited 2004
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014
Amended 2015

EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND MENTALLY ILL

WHEREAS, The providing of treatment for the emotionally disturbed and mentally ill constitutes a major health problem requiring improved and expanded services and facilities as well as effective research and personnel training programs; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes major deterrents to needed improvements in manpower, money and public awareness for the emotionally disturbed and mentally ill; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges expansion of mental health services and facilities to provide services for people in all parts of the state and the upgrading of the remaining state mental hospitals to ensure their full accreditation; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges expeditious development of educational and training programs for mental health personnel and the adoption of salary scales and working conditions which will place Virginia in a competitive position in recruitment of such personnel; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia affirms its interest by advocating necessary appropriations to accomplish the aforementioned goals; and further

RESOLVED, That club members become a catalyst in the promotion of public awareness and acceptance of mental health needs by visiting and studying the needs of both local and state mental health facilities and by participating in volunteer service programs which aid the mentally ill or emotionally disturbed patient.

Adopted 1967

Reviewed 1973

Reviewed 1981

Edited 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

Reaffirmed 2015

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE LICENSE FOR RESPITE CARE OF PHYSICALLY
DISABLED & MENTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes that there exists an acute need for respite care facilities for the physically disabled and mentally disabled individuals, especially for children and young adults, in most communities of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The closing of mental health facilities will result in returning more patients to community care; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia does not provide a respite care license expressly for physically disabled and mentally disabled individuals; and

WHEREAS, To provide respite care for the physically disabled and mentally disabled, license requirements and standards are identical to those who wish to provide day care or foster homes for normal children; and

WHEREAS, The care of the physically disabled and mentally disabled differs from the care required of normal children, qualifications need to be more demanding, appropriate standards and regulations need to be required; and

WHEREAS, The minimum standards for family day care homes and individual foster homes for normal children are not adequate to meet the needs of respite care for the physically disabled and mentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, The well-being of physically and mentally disabled and the interests of their families need to be protected, and the best possible care be provided; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor, the General Assembly and appropriate State Agencies to determine the certainty of adequate community care before closing any mental health facilities; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor, the General Assembly and/or the appropriate State Agencies to provide adequate licensing expressly for those who will provide respite care for the physically and mentally disabled of all ages; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia requests that the highest quality standards appropriate to the needs of the physically and mentally disabled be required for issuance of licenses for respite care.

Adopted 1971
Reviewed 1985
Edited 1988
Reviewed 1992
Edited 1996
Amended 1999
Reviewed 2003
Edited 2004
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, People require a full range of medical mental health care services including prescription drugs to meet their health care needs; and

WHEREAS, There remain areas of the United States which have substandard or non-existent health services; and

WHEREAS, Health care services, health insurance and prescription drugs are not affordable for all; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia encourages its members to work with their communities, the government, and private sector to improve health care services.

Adopted 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1987

Edited 1991

Reviewed and Edited 1995

Reviewed 1999

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

MEDICAL GENERAL LIABILITY AND MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

WHEREAS, Physicians and sole community hospitals in the Commonwealth of Virginia are denied medical general liability and malpractice insurance coverage because of a lack of neonatal physicians and adequate neonatal care; and

WHEREAS, Sole community hospitals closing their obstetrics wards because of a lack of neonatal physicians and adequate neonatal care; and

WHEREAS, Women in rural areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia do not have access to adequate health care; and

WHEREAS, The Senate of Virginia has established a joint subcommittee to study the availability and affordability of medical malpractice liability insurance for physicians and hospitals in the Commonwealth of Virginia and its impact on patient access to quality health care; therefore

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Virginia supports the study of the Senate joint subcommittee to relieve the lack of general medical liability and malpractice insurance for physicians and sole community hospitals in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports access to adequate neonatal care and general health care for women in rural communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Emergency Resolution presented by
Resolutions Committee Convention 2004

Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014
Reviewed 2015

MISUSE OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is concerned by the increased misuse of pharmaceutical drugs and the many problems associated with their misuse; and

WHEREAS, Because of the ease of purchase of pharmaceutical drugs and the increasing number of citizens who are purchasing and misusing legal pharmaceutical drugs; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon law enforcement, educators, the business and medical community, and the volunteer community to work to educate the public on the misuse of legal pharmaceutical drugs and to work to eliminate the problem.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Adopted 2003
Reviewed 2007
Amended 2014

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

WHEREAS, Donated organs and tissue, successfully transplanted, are literally the gift of life; and

WHEREAS, These donations are scientifically proven successes with the new drugs and surgical techniques developed, thereby becoming medically accepted options to save or improve the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, There exists both federal and state statutes which require each licensed hospital to establish a protocol that ensures that the families of suitable organ and tissue donors will be offered the opportunity to consider donation; and

WHEREAS, Anyone wishing to become an organ or tissue donor should fill out a donor card and inform their family and doctors of their wishes. When applying for a driver's license, a learner's permit or a photo ID, the DMV will ask if one wishes to become a donor and if so, it will be noted on the front of said document; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to:

Continue educating its members and their families on the need for organs and tissue donations;
Develop, in their communities, educational programs for increasing public and private industry awareness and support for organ donations;

Enlist voluntary registration of card-carrying organ and tissue donors; and

Pursue with local hospitals the state protocol requirement offering information on securing organ and tissue donations.

Adopted 1984

Reviewed 1988

Revised 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Amended 2014

POPULATION CONTROL

WHEREAS, The current world population explosion is a grave concern to the leaders and the peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, The increase in population in our nation is making more acute the problem of furnishing necessary health, education and welfare services; and

WHEREAS, Family planning is recognized as an integral part of the public health and has been approved by a majority of the religious groups of the world; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia recognizes the need for family planning and lends its support to the establishment of maternal and child health clinics where necessary information is available through Health Departments and other established agencies.

Reaffirmed 1968

Reviewed 1973

Reviewed 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Edited 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

PREVENTION-CONTROL-CURE OF DISEASES

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has been a leader in the fight against the major causes of illness, disability, and death; and

WHEREAS, A fuller application of known health measures and scientific knowledge could substantially reduce the serious toll taken by disease; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing number of medically fragile children and adults in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The technology/assistance received by such persons is essential to the optimal growth, development, and well-being of these persons and their families; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to assist public health and voluntary agencies:

To work for the prevention, control, and cure for all diseases;

To promote an educational campaign on the value of preventive medicine;

To strengthen existing health facilities;

To be vigilant in maintaining advances that have been made in the control and cure of communicable diseases;

To support state and local health departments in the development of new systems to better detect outbreaks of high-profile diseases;

To support non-profit multidisciplinary organizations dedicated to assisting families, community agencies and hospital personnel, in preparing a network for safe and controlled intensive care management for children and adults with various levels of medical instability who can be given the option of home care; and

To encourage the use of family health records and periodic physical examinations to provide diagnostic information for early detection, treatment, or prevention of birth defects or medical disorders.

Submitted by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1986
Reviewed and Edited 1990
Reviewed and Edited 1994
Edited 1998
Reviewed 2003
Amended 2007
Reviewed 2014

SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED

WHEREAS, The industrial and business world has advanced into a highly technical and automated era which makes it increasingly difficult for the deaf and the hearing impaired to keep pace without special assistance and/or services; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for statewide services to help the deaf and hearing impaired and their families receive assistance, counsel, information and direction from agencies providing services such as audiological examinations, hearing aids, education, and counseling and employment; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the members of the Virginia General Assembly to continue to make available the necessary funds to support the regional community centers of the Virginia Department for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and other related agencies.

Submitted by
Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1982
Reviewed 1986
Edited 1990
Reviewed 1994
Edited 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reaffirmed 2009
Amended 2014

SIGHT CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, Insufficient ability to read has been determined to be one of the chief causes of the drop-out problem; and

WHEREAS, Amblyopia or “Lazy Eye” is a major cause of preventable blindness in this nation and the leading cause of partial blindness in children, and can be corrected if detected before a child reaches school age; and

WHEREAS, Many defects including Amblyopia, farsightedness, nearsightedness, glaucoma, and others may be detected by pre-school visual screening; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to work for the conservation of sight by educating themselves and their communities to the importance of pre-school eye-screening for any defects, and it further urges all parents to have their children’s eyes examined before they enter school.

Adopted 1967
Reviewed 1973
Reviewed 1979
Reviewed 1985
Reviewed 1989
Reviewed 1994
Edited 1997
Edited 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is concerned about the adverse effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the physical, emotional and moral fiber of the people; and

WHEREAS, Substance abuse produces harmful effects to the physical, mental, and emotional health of the abusers, often contributing to criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, Effective citizens' responsibility in preventing substance abuse is largely dependent upon a sound prevention program of education on the adverse impact of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, In Virginia there continues to be a need for effective State and local prevention and rehabilitation for persons with substance abuse problems; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon its member clubs to work in cooperation with other public and private community organizations and associations to ensure that adequate substance abuse prevention and treatment programs are available in their communities; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that the Virginia General Assembly provide legislation to ensure community-based substance abuse programs are developed and available throughout the Commonwealth; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support the substance abuse centers and rehabilitation programs in their areas.

Adopted 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted diseases constitute a major health problem in the world today; and

WHEREAS, Education can help to prevent and to control the spread of these diseases; and

WHEREAS, Further research is needed to identify the causes and to develop the cures of sexually transmitted diseases; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia endorses a comprehensive education program in the school system and the community on sexually transmitted diseases; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs, parents, youth advisors, educators, health care providers and all other responsible persons to support research and public education on sexually transmitted diseases.

RESOLVED, the GFWC Virginia support comprehensive screening and treatment programs for sexually transmitted diseases.

Adopted 1976

Reviewed 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Edited 1997

Edited and Amended 2003

Amended 2007

Reviewed 2014

TREATMENT OF SEVERELY BRAIN DAMAGED CHILDREN

WHEREAS, The number of severely brain damaged children surviving birth is increasing due to improved neonatal care; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are inadequate spaces and personnel in state facilities for the medical and physical care and development of severely brain damaged children, resulting in long waiting lists for admission; and

WHEREAS, The care of severely brain damaged children at home can cause severe hardships to the family; and care in private institutions, when available, is outside the financial resources of many families; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that sufficient space for the accommodation of all severely brain damaged children be provided in regional state facilities prepared to meet their physical, medical and mental needs; and

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to work with other community organizations to form support groups to assist families who care for severely brain damaged children.

Adopted 1973

Reviewed 1977

Reviewed 1978

Amended and Reaffirmed 1988

Reviewed 1992

Reviewed 1996

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

ASSISTED LIVING

WHEREAS, Many Virginia senior citizens find themselves in need of Assisted Living services; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the Assisted Living Industry is to provide vital services which are critical toward maintaining the independence and autonomy of the senior population of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Many Virginia senior citizens have found their safety and well-being compromised due to a lack of adequate regulatory protection and consistent enforcement within the Assisted Living Industry; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports strong laws and regulations governing the actions and legal responsibilities of Assisted Living Facilities within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Submitted by
GFWC 2004 Virginia Resolutions Committee

Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

ELDERLY ABUSE

WHEREAS, The elderly population is particularly vulnerable to financial, physical, and emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of reported and unreported abuse of the elderly population continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, Cutbacks in funding and increased workloads have placed a burden on Social Services, thereby lessening their effectiveness in detecting and dealing with suspected abuse of the elderly; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to educate themselves and the general public, especially the elderly population, concerning the symptoms of elderly abuse, the method of reporting such abuse, and the rights and defenses of the elderly against such abuse; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia opposes any cutbacks in funding to those programs which monitor elderly abuse or which provide support services to victims of such abuse.

Submitted by Home Life Department
Edited by Resolutions Committee

Adopted 1994
Reviewed 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reaffirmed 2009
Reviewed 2014

SCAM ARTIST TACTICS AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Scam artists perpetuate a variety of creative scams that dupe the trusting, unsuspecting, uninformed members of society; and

WHEREAS, The elderly are particularly trusting and vulnerable to flimflam tactics; and

WHEREAS, Scam artist incidents often are not reported due to victims being embarrassed, ashamed, or fearful that the con artist will retaliate; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to educate themselves, the general public, and particularly the elderly, to recognize, avoid and report con games of scam artists; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges state and local agencies and community resources be used to publicize the types of scams to help prevent their perpetuation.

Adopted 1992

Reviewed 1996

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Amended 2014

PRESERVING FAMILY TIME

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia traditionally has recognized that the American way of life has its source in the home; and that the moral and spiritual strength of the nation radiates from the home; and that many families, regardless of religious preference, consider a time during the week to be “family time”; and

WHEREAS, Recent trends in business and social practices have eroded the influence of this day in family life; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members to strengthen family ties by planning activities during this time of the week around religious and/or social activities in which the whole family can participate.

Adopted 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Amended 2014

AFFIRMATION OF WOMEN

WHEREAS, More and more women, due to death or divorce, are heads of single parent homes; and

WHEREAS, The complexities of modern society offer financial, social and educational challenges;
and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia, since its founding, has endeavored to enlighten the lives of women and has been an advocate of social and economic change for the advancement of women; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia encourages each member club to include in its yearly planning, programs and projects which address financial, social and educational needs of its members.

Adopted 1983

Reviewed 1987

Reviewed 1991

Reviewed 1995

Reviewed 2003

Edited 2004

Amended 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMES FOR JUVENILES

WHEREAS, Juvenile delinquency and youth in need of services are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, The best hope of preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency is through programs of adequate community based services; and

WHEREAS, The juvenile court has too few alternatives to the commitment of children into State care because of the absence of local treatment and training programs; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that some children presently being committed to the State can be rehabilitated within the locality if adequate resources are available; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia recommends that State reimbursements, similar to those provided in the development of juvenile detention facilities, be made available to communities for the promotion of family-oriented community group homes programs, which will work, insofar as possible in conjunction with the Family Courts, Probation Departments and the Department of Social Services.

Substituted for Resolution "Halfway Houses"

(Adopted 1969, Reviewed 1973) 1978

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed and Edited 1994

Edited 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

Reaffirmed 2015

CONTROL OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is concerned by the widespread use of illegal drugs and the many problems associated with their use; and

WHEREAS, Growth and production of illegal drugs within the borders of the United States is on the increase; and

WHEREAS, Control of illegal drugs is almost impossible without prevention of their unlawful entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cooperation of other nations in the control of growing, processing and shipment of drugs is necessary to prevent unlawful entry into the United States; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon the President of the United States and Congress to use all possible means to

Control the growing, processing, production and unlawful shipment of illegal drugs within the United States;

Secure the cooperation of other countries for control of the unlawful shipment of illegal drugs to the United States.

Adopted 1972

Reviewed 1976

Reviewed 1979

Reaffirmed as edited 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

Amended 2015

CRIME PREVENTION

WHEREAS, One of the most important functions of government is to protect the inalienable right of the citizen to be secure in person and property within his home and in his movement through the streets, parks and countryside; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to work with other organizations and law enforcement agencies to study the crime situation in their communities, examine the resources available to prevent and reduce crime, initiate and promote programs, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, that combat crime.

Adopted 1972

Amended 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Amended 2014

ECONOMIC WORTH OF HOMEMAKING

WHEREAS, The homemaker provides an invaluable service to her home and family; and

WHEREAS, Laws affecting homemakers, including those dealing with property ownership, divorce, and death, may exclude or understate recognition of the homemaker's contribution to the family, especially because she receives no income; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia works to change existing laws affecting homemakers that undervalue their economic value; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports legislation that fully recognizes the economic worth of homemaking.

Adopted 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

FAMILY VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, Family violence in the United States is widespread, cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational, and socio-economic lines, resulting in physical abuse and deaths within the family and among law enforcement officials responding to situations of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Family violence is a cause of emotional and behavioral disturbance in children and adults and battering and battered spouses often batter their children who, in turn, become violent adults, thus perpetuating the cycle; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for emergency shelters for victims of family violence as well as confidentiality of address; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia shall initiate and actively support legislation and programs which will:

Identify violence-prone families and suspected cases of child abuse and battered spouses;
Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave family settings; and
Provide treatment for victims and perpetrators of family violence; and
Provide for a system to assure confidentiality of addresses of victims of family violence; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia will enlist the help of health care professionals, legal and law enforcement agencies, court advocates, religious and civic organizations, and the general public, to recognize and eventually eradicate family violence.

Adopted 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Amended 1998

Reviewed 1999

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Amended 2014

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND

WHEREAS, There are ever increasing purchases of American land by other than American citizens;
and

WHEREAS, Many of the purchasers are unknown with purchase negotiated through representatives
with undisclosed intent of the usage of the property; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges local and state authorities to exercise more control and to
place adequate restrictions on the purchase of Virginia properties by foreign interests.

Adopted 1983
Reviewed 1990
Reviewed 1994
Edited 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014
Edited 2015

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, Virginia has enjoyed good and effective government using a part-time citizen legislative body; and

WHEREAS, There is no evidence that a full-time legislative body would improve the quality of government in Virginia; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia opposes all measures that would change the character of Virginia's legislative body from a part-time citizen legislative body to a full-time professional political body; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia declares its belief that Virginia will be best served by elected representatives who are at the same time pursuing business and professional careers of their own.

Adopted 1975
Reviewed 1979
Reviewed 1985
Reviewed 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Amended 2014

MANDATORY SENTENCING FOR SEXUAL ABUSE AND MOLESTATION OF CHILDREN

WHEREAS, Sexual exploitation of children causes permanent psychological and physiological damage; and

WHEREAS, Statistics reveal many sexually exploited children, as young as eight years old, are runaways and others even as young as three years old are used by their parents or guardians for sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The present criminal justice system often fails children and society in general in adjudication of child abuse cases, and children are not capable of protecting themselves; and

WHEREAS, The billion-dollar pornography industry's newest growth area is child pornography; and

WHEREAS, There is evidence of an alarming misuse of internet sites by sexual predators; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia demand enforcement of existing laws concerning sexual exploitation of children and actively initiate and support new legislation where needed; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia shall encourage and support awareness programs that are designed for a child's understanding of sexual exploitation so that he/she can communicate with a responsible adult if a problem exists and to deal better with the emotional trauma if he/she has been abused; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the adoption of laws which will provide that any proven involvement with the production and sales of explicit sex pictures of minor children, or the use of children in live performances exhibiting sexually-explicit conduct or for the purposes of prostitution or any other sexual exploitation of children, shall be considered a felony with mandatory minimum prison sentences and fines for convicted individuals.

Adopted 1985
Reviewed 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Reviewed 1999
Amended 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

PRISON REFORM

WHEREAS, The concept of punishment alone as a deterrent to crime has been outmoded by statistics and by modern scientific studies of treatment of criminals which take into account the physical, sociological, mental and spiritual aspects of personality; and

WHEREAS, Use of enlightened modern methods often develops reasonable, law abiding citizens with consequent reduction of repeated offenses and recommitments; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to continue study, and to urge their legislators to study recent advances in the conservation of human resources through psychological evaluation and wise use of all available methods of rehabilitation, and further, to encourage prison boards and administrators to take advantage of every possible resource in order that prisoners may be provided with and make use of:

Psychological evaluation and psychiatric treatment when indicated;

Adequate health standards and correction of physical defects where possible;

Remedial education;

Suitable job training;

Opportunity for religious education and counseling;

Opportunity for development of constructive use of leisure time; and further

RESOLVED, That efforts be made to improve rehabilitative services through raising educational and training standards of prison personnel and to provide adequate follow-up services upon release of prisoners in order to assist them in their adjustment as productive members of society.

Adopted 1974

Reviewed 1978

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Edited 1998

Reviewed 2003

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

SEXUAL ASSAULT

WHEREAS, The crime of sexual assault is rising in number; and

WHEREAS, Because of the lack of confidentiality, sexual assault victims are traumatized and embarrassed and often refuse to report the crime; and

WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to encourage the reporting of sexual assault in order to obtain arrests and convictions; and

WHEREAS, Emergency aid for sexual assault victims is available if this crime is reported to the proper authorities; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports the establishment and/or strengthening of a comprehensive sexual assault reporting and conviction program; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports legislation which will:

Guarantee the right of confidentiality to the assault victim regarding all reports and conversations with investigators and counselors

Strongly support the enforcement of existing laws and criminal penalties dealing with sexual assault

Advocate new laws when needed

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to establish and/or support community public education campaigns to alleviate the stigma affecting assault victims.

Adopted 1975

Reviewed 1979

Reviewed 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Edited 1998

Amended 2003

Amended 2007

Reviewed 2014

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, Women often have to face the prospect of poverty when they grow old; and

WHEREAS, Working women often have found that their retirement benefits are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, Many private pension plans have no provisions for income payments for a widow of any age;

RESOLVED That GFWC Virginia urges the government, at all levels, to enact legislation to assure equitable security benefits for women in all pension plans.

Adopted 1979

Reviewed 1983

Reviewed 1995

Edited 1987

Edited 1991

Reviewed 1995

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

TEMPORARY AID TO NEEDY FAMILIES

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has always been deeply concerned that adequate care be provided for all children; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes the family unit as basic to our society; and

WHEREAS, There is need for continuing study, reevaluation, and supervision of the temporary aid to needy families to assure wise and proper use of funds; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to cooperate with proper authorities to avoid misuse of funds and correct inadequacies and inequities where they exist in the temporary aid to needy families; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that related state/local agencies and community resources be used to maintain a complete family unit and to assist the family to achieve economic independence.

Adopted 1990
Reviewed 1994
Edited 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT PREVENTION

WHEREAS, Accident and death rates on the public highways of Virginia are appalling, and attributed to the failure of drivers to know and observe safe driving practices; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has removed speed limitations on federal highways and reserved this responsibility to individual states; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of road rage is a growing concern; therefore

RESOLVED, That members of GFWC Virginia individually pledge their wholehearted support to reduce the accident and death rates by:

Personal resolution to restudy the rules of the road and to apply these individually;

Arousing public interest in and support for safety engineering enforcement, and education;

Supporting the building of more safety devices into vehicles, to lower horsepower, and to de-emphasize speed;

Opposing speeding, driving under the influence of narcotics, intoxicants, extreme fatigue, or emotional stress; and

Continued support of mandatory vehicle inspections.

Continued support of present speed limits on Virginia's highways.

Prompt reporting and appropriate punishment of those drivers found guilty of road rage.

Adopted 1972

Edited 1979

Reviewed 1985

Edited 1987

Reviewed 1991

Amended 1995

Edited 1996

Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

Reaffirmed 2015

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the cause of unintentional injury-related death to children ages 14 and under; and

WHEREAS, Significant numbers of our nation's children still ride without a safety belt or car seat; and

WHEREAS, A large number of children who are restrained are secured incorrectly; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports education efforts for child passenger safety; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia encourages enforcement of child passenger safety legislation.

Adopted 1998
Reviewed 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

DRUNK/DRUGGED DRIVING

WHEREAS, Alcohol/Drug related traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for young people and a leading cause of death for persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, concerned persons are demanding permanent solutions to the problem of drunk/drugged driving; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to cooperate with other organizations in supporting community-based alcohol and drug prevention programs/projects; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update, and strictly enforce state laws regarding alcohol/drug sales and driving under the influence; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support laws which guarantee immediate arrest and speedy trial of offenders and tough, standardized penalties assessed by the courts.

Adopted 1990

Reviewed and Edited 1994

Edited 1998

Amended 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION OF AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia is interested in further progress of safety; and

WHEREAS, There is a great need for the service of well qualified automobile mechanics; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports and urges the General Assembly to take steps toward licensure or certification of all automobile mechanics.

Reaffirmed 1969

Reviewed 1973

Reviewed 1978

Reviewed 1979

Reviewed 1985

Edited 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

LICENSING STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS

WHEREAS, Loss of life and property from accidents involving drivers on our streets and highways have reached alarming heights; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia endorses improved and more rigid licensing standards and procedures, which will permit on Virginia roads only those who are competent drivers; and further

RESOLVED, That driver education be encouraged as a prerequisite for a driver's license.

Edited 1979

Reviewed 1985

Edited 1989

Reviewed and Edited 1994

Reviewed 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reviewed 2014

ROADSIDE REFLECTIVE MARKERS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has been active in accident prevention on our highways and streets; and

WHEREAS, The painted white lines on our highways and streets are highly ineffective at night when driving in inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, The Raised Reflective Markers have been tested extensively and found to be an outstanding driving guide at night and during rain and fog, and have proven to be a major factor in the reduction of accidents involving injuries and fatalities; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon its member clubs to urge the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue in an acceptable scientific manner its study, research and use of Raised Reflective Markers on State and Federal highways in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adopted 1974

Reviewed 1978

Amended 1985

Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 1994

Reviewed 1997

Reviewed 2003

Reviewed 2007

Reaffirmed 2009

Reviewed 2014

STRIKES IN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia believes that strikes which imperil essential public services are a vital concern to all people; and

WHEREAS, Strikes in essential public services can imperil lives, jeopardize jobs, endanger food supplies, interfere with education, hamper defense efforts and damage the economy; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Virginia declares its belief that strikes in essential public services should be discouraged and that labor practices of contract negotiations, collective bargaining, mediation and arbitration be used to prevent such strikes.

Adopted 1978
Reviewed 1985
Edited 1989
Reviewed 1994
Reviewed 1997
Amended 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

TERRORISM

WHEREAS, Terrorism continues to be a grave threat to all persons throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, The Office of Homeland Security was created in 2001 to lead, oversee, and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard against terrorism, and

WHEREAS, National, state and local governments need to be better prepared for fighting and responding to terrorism; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support anti-terrorism efforts including:

Educating members to better understand the vast forms of terrorism in order to be better prepared
Supporting legislation that develops and implements a domestic anti-terrorism strategy providing strong counter-terrorism programs, and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges members be vigilant and observant of their surroundings at all times; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the United States to work collaboratively with international organizations and governments to combat terrorism; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia strongly reaffirms its conviction that any terrorist act against the United States or other countries be investigated and necessary action taken to identify and apprehend those responsible and to have them prosecuted.

Resubmitted by Resolutions Committee

Adopted 2003
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE DRIVING

WHEREAS, Motorized vehicles are powerful machines requiring the full and undivided attention of drivers; and

WHEREAS, Use of electronic devices while driving can cause visual, mechanical, and cognitive distractions; and

WHEREAS, Statistics reveal that electronic devices usage quadruples the risk of collisions; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports the creation of laws prohibiting drivers from using hand held electronic devices while driving except for emergency calls; and

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges relevant governmental agencies to statistically record accidents caused by electronic devices use; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia members set an example by not using handheld electronic devices while driving.

Submitted by
GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee

Adopted 2004
Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014