



Organized April 22, 1904

Admitted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs – May 14, 1904

Incorporated 1929

Official Colors: Orchid and Green

GFWC West Virginia

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GFWC West Virginia History

GFWC West Virginia began its federation journey on April 22, 1904. The West Virginia Federation was admitted to the General Federation of Women's Club on May 14, 1904, and was incorporated in 1929. Its colors are orchid and green, and the state federation emblem incorporates the words "knowledge, strength and purpose." The GFWC West Virginia Junior Department was organized in 1931. West Virginia is part of the GFWC Southeastern Region. GFWC WV has seven districts within the State itself.

The aim of GFWC West Virginia is *"that there may be in every community an organized and informed group of women who are actively engaged in promoting projects for the betterment of life in relation to the home, community and nation; also, for civic, cultural and educational advancement."*

Currently our State Federation has 1,654 members in 65 clubs throughout the state. There are 1,536 General members in 57 clubs; 73 Junior members in six clubs; 30 Collegiate members in one club; and 15 Juniorette members in 2 clubs.

Some of the accomplishments of GFWC West Virginia through the years include:

- GFWC West Virginia Scholarship Fund to help college students
- Support Camp Galahad for handicapped children
- West Virginia First Ladies Project of doll replicas of the state's first ladies
- Touch Museum at the West Virginia School for the Blind in Romney
- Restoration of the Pearl S. Buck Birthplace at Hillsboro
- Provision of more than 62,000 books for first graders
- ESP Trust Fund for the education of family physicians
- State Historical tree project at Point Pleasant
- Impetus for child abuse protection and school bus safety legislation in the State
- Millions of hours of service to the youth and aged in West Virginia
- Over \$30,000 donated to Canine Companions for Independence
- Children's books and tutoring materials donated for LIBRARIES 2000
- GFWC West Virginia Endowment at West Virginia University to provide financial support for students majoring in special education
- Establishment of the GFWC West Virginia Support Fund to build for the future of our organization
- 501©3 Tax Status Recognized by IRS (for State Federation use only; clubs must apply for own status)
- Restoration of the Anna Jarvis Birthplace, Webster, WV

Some of the Junior Department accomplishments through the years includes:

- Stamps For Wounded Veterans in the post-war years
- CARE for Korea project
- Adopting a Japanese War Orphan and Food for the Philippines
- Co-sponsor on a bill supporting the right of women to serve on juries

GFWC West Virginia archives are located at the West Virginia Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston.

Legend of the Emblem for GFWC West Virginia



The emblem was adopted at the 1965 Annual Convention with Mrs. Fred Hurt as GFWC WV President. Mrs. Peter Davis, a former editor of *GFWC WV Clubwoman* and Northern District President, collaborated with Mrs. Hurt to design the emblem. Both ladies are deceased.

The blue band signifies eternity, also the never-ending circle of Federation; the blue signifies constancy. The golden torch implies knowledge and enlightenment. The orchid field is the color of our State Flower, the Rhododendron. The green of the crusader's shield is the green of our West Virginia Hills; the band across the shield is set with eight stars symbolizing the eight districts within the Federation. The shield itself implies that the State Federation is ready to serve with "knowledge, strength, and purpose," which is the motto on the circle.



GFWC WEST VIRGINIA

Members Serving GFWC Elected Offices in the Past

- *Mrs. John Speed Harvey, Huntington
 GFWC Recording Secretary..... 1936-1938

- *Mrs. Nunley B. (Violet) Snedegar, Elkins
 Chairman of the GFWC Junior Clubs Committee.. 1950-1952
 (This position was prior to the formation of the GFWC Director of Junior Clubs position)

- *Mrs. James (Maxine) A. Scarbro, Charleston
 GFWC President..... 1998-2000
 GFWC President-elect..... 1996-1998
 GFWC First Vice President..... 1994-1996
 GFWC Second Vice President..... 1992-1994
 GFWC Recording Secretary..... 1990-1992
 GFWC Treasurer..... 1988-1990
 GFWC Director of Junior Clubs 1962-1964

- *Mary Katharine Barnes Miller (Mrs. Carroll), Philippi, Charleston, and Missoula, Montana
 GFWC President..... 1974-1976
 GFWC President-elect..... 1972-1974
 GFWC First Vice President..... 1970-1972
 GFWC Second Vice President..... 1968-1970
 GFWC Recording Secretary..... 1966-1968
 GFWC Treasurer..... 1964-1966

- *Mrs. David (Linda) Messinger, Milton and Richmond Hill, Georgia
 GFWC Director of Junior Clubs 1982-1984

- Cathy Jo (Canterbury) Byrant, Fayetteville, WV
 GFWC Director of Junior Clubs 2014-2016

GFWC WV Members serving GFWC this administration:

Sharon Sheridan- GFWC SER Vice President

Mary Jo Thomas- GFWC Strategic Planning Committee



GFWC West Virginia Members Serving GFWC Southeastern Region Elected Offices in the Past

- *Mrs. H.G. Muntzing, President - 1960-1962
- *Mrs. Delmas Miller, President - 1970-1972
- *Mrs. William B. Bright, President - 1988-1990
- *Mrs. J. Max Dawson, Secretary & Treasurer - 1978-1980
- Mrs. Stanley Wolfe, Secretary & Treasurer - 1990-1992
- Mrs. Donald T. Harvey, Vice President - 1994-1996
President-1996-1998
- *Mrs. Donald Sypolt, Treasurer - 1998-2000
Secretary - 2000-2002
Vice President - 2002-2004
President - 2004-2006
- Mrs. Mary Jo Thomas, Secretary- 2014-2016
President- 2016-2018
- Mrs. Sharon Sheridan, Treasurer- 2020-2022
Secretary- 2022-2024

**States in
Southeastern Region
(SER):**

**Tennessee,
Kentucky,
North Carolina,
Virginia,
Maryland,
District of Columbia,
and West Virginia.**

GFWC WV Members serving GFWC SER this administration:

Sharon Sheridan- Vice President & Standing Rules Committee Member

Mary Jo Thomas- Jennie Award Chairman

Helen Moren- Budget & Finance Committee Member

Cindy Jenkins- Tellers Chairman

