## GFWC KENTUCKY

# CLUBWOMAN

GFWC KY State President Susette and some of the members of the Benton Juniorettes











#### Forget the Glass Shoes, You need Slippers!

This has been some ride. I was told that this two years would fly by and I can't believe that in a few short and quick weeks, the 2016-2018 will be in the books. I never imagined what would happen, where I would go, who I would have the opportunity to meet and I would see some ideas become reality. All in a 24 month period.

Highlights. They aren't just for hair. Highlights have to be representing you at the International Convention in California and winning the fundraising award. What an honor. This was thanks to you for our support of the 104 Society, The Brick Spirit Walk, feeding our piggy banks with your contribution of \$3.65, your purchase of Christmas light bulbs and stockings for scholarships and finally your purchases made at the Marketplace.

Another highlight would be the production and sale of your state cookbook. I love using it. I love the Fern Creek hot chicken salad!

Attending events of your clubs has been another highlight. Bunco, breast cancer awareness programs, festival food and fashion shows. Oh what fun it has been. Having our federation sisters visit us during November 2017 as we hosted the Southeastern Conference for GFWC was another highlight. What fun it was! What work it was! What a success it was! You came through with socks for Socktober to be distributed to all the states in attendance. I was so proud to be able to say I was your State President.

Then the St. Jude carnivals. How much fun was that? Our carnival to close out our 2017 Convention was crazy fun. Loved everything from the fish pond for jewels, to the grab bags, to the raffle for the St. Jude teddy bear, the tabletop corn hole and regular corn hole, to the photo booth and who can forget bowling for gnomes! You made my childhood dream of a quarter pitch for glassware become true. Loved that game at my mother's church festival in the little town in Kansas she grew up in and always thought I would have a carnival game of my own that I could host and love. Then we did it again during SER! What fun our visitors had during it along with the hotel staff. They loved seeing us letting our hair down and just hanging out and having fun.

Something that I will leave this position with and cherish is the time I spent with our Benton Juniorettes. What amazing young women they are now and will become in the future. I know where I was when Columbine happened. I know where I was when the Heath High School shooting took place. I now add to that list, I know where I was when the Marshall County shooting took place. This has to stop and WE, GFWC and GFWC Kentucky need to get behind keeping our children safe in school.

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent you these two year. I accomplished some of the ideas and thoughts I had in my mind and yet there are still things I wished I could have done. To my Executive Committee, my thanks for putting up with my crazy ideas. To my own club, thanks for your help and for covering me when I couldn't always help out. To Preshus, thank you. Words cannot express what you mean to me and I can't wait to watch Reagan grow up. Finally to my family — it's over. I'll be home. Brett, Emilee and Will, Nana can stay with Will anytime now. Deveney, I am proud of you and it's hard to believe you graduate from college in just a few weeks. I'm so happy to call you not only my daughter but my federation sister. To Bill, my bestie, thank you for loving me and supporting me. You are a great member of GFWC Kentucky.

Hey! Enough of this. We have a convention to go to yet. See you in the Ville' in May. Until then, keep walking with confidence!

Heels UP!





**PRESHUS HOWARD**GFWC Kentucky Director of Junior Clubs

Hello GFWC Kentucky!!

As we are gearing up for State Convention, I want to give everyone some information about upcoming events and information about our Junior Special Projects Partnerships.

We will have two projects going on for Junior Specials during State Convention this year and I would love if everyone could participate in one or the other or both if you want to. We will be collecting new baby sleepers, onesies, gowns, and beanies in preemie, newborn or 0-3 months to distribute to NICUs across the Commonwealth. We will also be collecting baby blankets for Blankets for Babies for March of Dimes and I will have purple ribbon and tags for everyone to sign. There is no specific size or materials that need to be used, club members can decide how they want to make the blankets. It can be new, sewn, no-sew, knitted, crocheted, etc.

The GFWC Kentucky Juniors will also be selling chances to win this beautiful quilt/wall hanging that was generously made and donated by Jane Pfarner. We appreciate this so much and look forward to selling a lot of chances for this great item.



We will be giving out the Junior and Juniorette Awards at that time to showcase our Junior and Juniorette Clubwomen. Also, we will be doing awards for Advocates for Children including March of Dimes, St. Jude and my special project, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Attention Junior & Juniorette Clubwomen... There will be a Junior Meeting on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00AM in Colonel C (2nd Floor) during Convention. I would love to see representation from all of our Junior and Juniorette Clubs there and at convention this year. I look forward to seeing all of you!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to email me at preshus.howard@yahoo.com.

In Federation,

Preshus Howard
GFWC Kentucky Director of Junior Clubs

## **Happy Federation Day**

April 24th of each year, GFWC celebrates the "birthday", the day designated as the beginning of the organization. During the 2016-2018 Administration GFWC Kentucky celebrated the 122nd and in May will hold the 123rd Annual Conventions. The current administration will also acknowledge the 123rd and 124th year of GFWC Kentucky. Follow? So in the 2018-2020 Administration we will celebrate a 125th anniversary twice! What? In July of 2019, GFWC Kentucky will be 125 years old and the 2020 Annual Convention will be the 125th Annual Convention. How wild is that!

So how did we get to these special anniversary years? The Kentucky Federation of Women's Club formed in July of 1894. A group that met in downtown Lexington, petitioned to become a member of the organization. They joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs at that time becoming the fourth state to join the organization. By 1909, Kentucky had 85 organized clubs. By the end of 1921, KFWC was 150 clubs strong and boasted over 16,000 members.

Projects have always been a part of our history. As you are already aware, Women's Clubs across the county are credited with the establishment of most of the public libraries in our communities. Kentucky's first project was the establishment of public libraries in our communities. Most of our clubs still support in some way these libraries. Because most of our clubs were established as Book or Reading Clubs, it only make sense that this was and is one of our long time focuses.

A "traveling library" was established by the Louisville Monday Afternoon Club in 1887. This literary club started this program well before Kentucky becoming an organized member of GFWC. Soon clubs picked up on this "bookmobile" program and you found traveling libraries being established across the state. Most of these became known as the Pack Horse Library. You guessed it. Club women packed the books in satchels and lead the horses to houses and towns for families and individuals to check out books.

In Morehead, Cora Wilson Stewart wasn't just interested in teaching people to read but served Rowan County as the first Superintendent of Schools. She is created as establishing the Moonlight School. When the moon was out, farmers and their families would travel to the one room school room and learn to read by the light of the moon. No moon, no school. Ms. Stewart also served as one of the first Presidents of the Morehead Woman's Club.

Libraries and literacy go hand and hand. I truly believe that our strong volunteer work in the area of education can be credited to this first project. You find today our clubs supporting books for babies, reading in classrooms, tutoring in reading and so much more. Kentucky women have had a strong and heard voice in politics whether in the local community or at the state level. In 1908, clubwomen lead the charge in Frankfort that the Legislature should fund support of local school systems. I wonder what those women would think of what's happening today. They won that fight and soon after school systems received funding from the state budget.

With that fight being successful, the next charge in 1909 was to get women elected to local school boards. Again, success. If you serve on a local Board of Education, you have those who came before us to thank.

Kentucky women not only were concerned with education but with conservation within the state. In the early 1900's there was a drive to preserve Mammoth Cave. As one of the National Parks, again, Kentucky women raised the funds to keep the park open and to get federal funding to make improvements in the cave to continue to encourage families to visit this amazing place of nature.

You could find women speaking out against strip mining; establishing schools for special needs children and fighting for the right to allow us to vote. At our March Women's



History program, our guest was "Madeline McDowell Breckinridge" who was one of the leaders in Kentucky for the woman's suffrage movement. She fought for us in Kentucky as Jane Cunningham, who is created with the establishment of GFWC, fought for our right to vote in Washington D.C. Jane even spent three days in jail because of her marching in D.C. for us.

I find it interesting that so many of our members are nurses by profession. I would assume because of their caring nature that our Woman's Club work is a natural fit. However, in reaching some information on KFWC/GFWC Kentucky, I learned that KFWC was instrumental in the establishment of the Frontier Nursing School. The school was founded by Mary Breckinridge of Lexington in Leslie County, Kentucky, in 1925. Admission was given to those women who were already nurses and who wanted to focus on the care of mothers and babies. Midwifery education was given to these women who traveled throughout Kentucky by horseback. There saddlebags carried all the supplies they needed to assist mothers with their births. When children asked where babies came from, parents did not tell them that the stork had dropped them off or they were found in a cabbage patch. They knew they were brought to their families by the nurse's saddlebags.

In our most recent history, women's clubs have been credited with raising funds for communities to have at least one jaw of life, having at least one kidney dialysis machine in local doctor's office and those annoying square metal pad on the interstate to keep you awake. We have also worked for assisting with needed items for the Red Cross, assisting women in our communities with needs during breast cancer treatments and just having fun. Mary Elizabeth Preston of the Pikeville Woman's Club served at the Kentucky State President and then went on to serve as the GFWC International President. She is one of two Kentucky clubwomen who has served in this capacity. Mary Elizabeth was instrumental is promoting family here in Kentucky and in D.C. As International President she asked clubs across the country to help fight for the free enterprise system. After leaving office, Mary Elizabeth worked for four U.S. President's and reestablished the White House Lawn's Easter Egg Hunt two years after the death of President Kennedy.

Other International Presidents promoted crime prevention, energy conservation, CARE packages, established the community improvement program we now continue to work towards and working with the Special Olympics. It was during the 2008 International Convention in Chicago, the convention delegation voted to have a signature program. Domestic Violence was selected as that signature program. Clubs now work with shelters, donate to programs, plant pinwheel gardens to promote awareness and so much more. Because of GFWC, resolutions and legislation has been passed making sure people know domestic violence is not ok. Our work with Prevent Child Abuse America and Kentucky want people to remember that it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

Because of this work, in 2013, the International Convention delegation voted to support a Survivor Scholarship. GFWC has awarded a number of scholarships since 2014 to put deserving women back in school.

Every day, each of us are "Living the Volunteer Spirit". That tag line, if tag lines were popular in 1894, would have been the same. I am proud to be a member of an organization with this rich history, outstanding purposes and successful outcomes.

(Information collected from Lexington Herald Leader, Louisville Courier Journal, the Kentucky Encyclopedia, GFWC website, University of Kentucky Library services, University of Kentucky Special Collections, HIMS, KFWC Yearbooks along with stories from Clubwomen of the past and the present.)



#### **GFWC Pikeville Woman's Club Supports Banquet For Life**

The Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center was founded in 2007; it currently serves 12 counties in Eastern Kentucky. APCC exists to enable individuals and families to make wise life choices through the provision of education, resources and unconditional love.

The center recently celebrated the legacy of life by hosting its 5th Annual Banquet For Life. Various businesses, organizations, churches and individuals came together to raise awareness within the community for the appreciation of life. With approximately 750 in attendance, this year's numbers exceeded the previous years.

Members of the GFWC Pikeville Woman's Club donated countless hours to help make the event a success. These included: planning and organizing, soliciting monetary donations and silent auction items, decorating and hosting. In addition to all the time given, the club made a donation of \$400.00 to the cause.

During the event, fifteen members attended and worked in various aspects: registered and ushered the participants and assisted with the silent auction and the clean-up. APCC Executive Director Kay Hammond stated, "I wish to thank members of the GFWC Pikeville Woman's Club who supported the Banquet For Life. Your assistance is greatly appreciated."

## Celebrating 80 Years

The Woman's Club of St. Matthews is proud to announce 80 years of achievements as a group. Over these 80 years, the clubwomen of the Woman's Club of St. Matthews have served our community, our state and our country. Through projects both large and small our club members have joined together for the advancement of children, facilitated programs and efforts to support area seniors, and forwarded causes for the betterment and growth of the community and those who live and visit within it.

In celebration of these accomplishments and the extraordinary clubwomen who have come before us, and who are presently carrying the torch forward, The Woman's Club of St. Matthews will be hosting a program and reception.

Come join our clubwomen, GFWC KY officers, Mayor Richard Tonini of the City of St. Matthews and Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fisher, along with other area dignitaries, as we commemorate this very special milestone

When: Sunday, June 3, 2018

Where: Hurstbourne County Club

9000 Hurstbourne Club Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40222

Time: 2 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served

**RSVP: Jackie Brooks** 

Telephone: (502) 292-1790 or Email: jackie.brooks19@twc.com

We look forward, as sisters in GFWC, to having you join us.

## Candidate for the Office of President-elect



Teresa Schmidt

GFWC Woman's Club of St. Matthews

District 3

Teresa joined the Woman's Club of Lyndon in 2005. As a member of the club she elected 1st Vice President and the President. She has served in a variety of chairmanships once Lyndon Club foaled and she joined her current club. She served the district as the domestic violence chairmen the year First Lady Jane Beshear initiated the Shop and Share program. Teresa participated in the sorting of those first donated items to the shelters across Kentucky at the capitol building and where she learned more about GFWC Kentucky.

At the state level, Teresa served as the Legislative Chairman, district vice governor and then governor. She currently serves as the 2nd vice president for the 2016-2018 administration. Teresa's talents have been seen during the 2017 Annual Convention and during SER as she made and oversaw many of the centerpieces used during the meal functions.

Teresa has been a hairdresser for 48 years. She and her husband Tony enjoy traveling and exploring sites in Kentucky. They are the parents to a 12 year old fur baby, Wyatt.

## Candidate for the Office 1st Vice President



**Donna Travis**GFWC Woman's Club of Madisonville
District 2

Donna joined the Woman's Club of Madisonville in 1994. She has served her club as chairman of many projects and programs including the clubs nominating committee, Spring Luncheon and decorator and model for the East Spectacular Style Show. She has served as her clubs Treasurer and President.

At the district and state levels, she has served as the state education partnership chair, district Red Cross chair and district conference chair, secretary, Vice Governor and Governor. Donna represented Kentucky as the 2015 LEADS participant and was named the GFWC Kentucky Clubwoman of the Year in 2016. She currently serves on the Executive Committee in the position of secretary.

Donna has most recently worked as the bookkeeper and receptionist in her husband Randy's pediatric dental practice. She remains busy as a community volunteer and in her church. Donna and Randy are the proud grandparents to grandson Owen Patrick and have two grown sons.

## Candidate for the Office of 2nd Vice President



**Sherri Hammons**GFWC Barbourville Junior Woman's Study Club
District 9

Sherri has been a member of her club since 1992. She has been recognized by her club a number of times as the Clubwoman of the Year. She has chaired a number of club committees. Sherri has served as the Club's Daniel Boone Days Coronation Chair for past ten year. As a club member she has also served as club vice president and president and currently serves as the parliamentarian.

At the state level she has attended a number of state meetings and has served on the GFWC Kentucky Junior Board as a state junior chairman. She currently is serving as the district governor.

Sherri has worked in education for 27 years. She is the media specialist at Girdler Elementary. She and her husband are the parents to Lauren who attends the University of the Cumberland's and high school senior

## Candidate for the Office of Director of Junior Clubs Elect



Preshus Howard

GFWC Barbourville Junior Woman's Study Club

District 9

Preshus joined her club in 2008. She has held numerous chairmanships along with service as the clubs vice president and president. She has received the honor of being named Clubwoman of the Year for several years.

At the district level, Preshus has served as the 9th Districts Junior Director. She was the GFWC Kentucky LEADS representative in 2012. She currently serves as the Director of Junior Clubs for the state and has worked tirelessly for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. During the 2017 International Convention, Preshus was recognized as one of three platinum level winners of the Millie Crom Award for Excellence in Junior State Leadership.

Preshus is the Director of the Educational Studies Unit/ Licensure Services at Union College. She along with her husband Billy and daughter Reagan enjoy all types of outdoor adventures.

## Candidate for the Office of Secretary



**Cynthia Barnes**GFWC Murray Woman's Club
District 1

Cynthia became a member of the Murray Woman's Club in 2006. She has served the club in a variety of offices and chairmanships including being a member of the chorus, serving as Legislative Chair, Clubhouse manager, website chair as well as vice president and president. Cynthia was recognized by her club as Newcomer of the Year in 2007 and Clubwoman of the Year in 2008.

She has served at the district level as the Public Issue Chair and Governor. Cynthia represented GFWC Kentucky as the LEADS participant in 2016. She has served on the state's Budget and Finance committee, Public Issues Chairman and has served on the credentials committee. GFWC Kentucky has recognized Cynthia as the 2008 Clubwoman of the Year, the 2013 Outstanding Governor and recognized the First District as Outstanding District that same year under her leadership. While serving as a state chairmen she was awarded the Spirit Award for Outstanding Chairman at the 2015 convention.

Cynthia is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who truly lives the volunteer spirit each and every day. Her efforts are to make her community along with ours, better places to live for all.

## Candidate for the Office of Treasurer



**Darla Doss**GFWC Benton Woman's Club
District 1

A member since 1999, Darla has severed her local club as yearbook chair, fundraising, education, art, home life and press book chairman. She also has chaired the clubs fundraising event; Holiday Tour of Homes and Puttin' on the Mitz. Darla has also served as the clubs vice president and president and currently serves as the club treasurer.

At the state level she served GFWC Kentucky as the International Outreach chairman. She also served as her districts vice governor and governor.

Darla is office manager for her husband Brian's dental practice. They are the parents to WKU student Devan and high school senior Derek. She is involved in a member of community organizations along with her church. She enjoys photography, scrapbooking and time at the lake.

#### WILLIAMSTOWN **WOMAN'S CLUB**

In Memory of

Marie Ackman, Barbara Brown, Laura Sue Gibson, Florence Lanter **And Jewell Martin** 

In Loving Memory of

June Rich & Bernice Utz

Florence Woman's Club, INC

**Jackson Woman's Club...** 

Celebrating

70 years

of community service

#### Clinton County Woman's Club

the Lake Cumberland and Dale Hollow area since 1936

**Congratulations Sarah Beth Legg!** 

Morgan County Woman's Club

2017 Outstanding Clubwoman

Congratulations to our three members with the longest memberships with the Livermore Woman's Club

Doris Turner 47 years

Faye Ashby

45 years

Betty Curry

45 years

#### Bowling Green Woman's Club

Serving

The Bowling Green and Warren County area Since 1952

"lpha circle of caring" Circle of Friends Woman's blub Pikeville, KY

#### Woman's Club of St. Matthews

Flourishing in our 80th Year. Forever advancing.

A PROUD GFWC Member

Congratulations to the

#### Okolona Woman's Club

For Living the Volunteer Spirit For 62 Years!

## Hazel Woman's Club

A proud sponsor of
Kentucky
Special Olympics

In Memory of Lemonia (Gail) Kingsley June 19, 2017

Pikeville Woman's Club INC

Congratulations to the

Elkhorn City Area Woman's Club

For your continuous support of the

**Elkhorn City Community** 

### Woman's Club of Marion

Invites you to visit Amish Country
In Crittenden County

Congratulations to the following members of the

Radcliff Woman's Club

for service to GFWC for 50 Years of service.

Mary Haddix Barbara Proffitt Jeannene Shipp

Mary Dea McCrory Mary Agnes Sears Congratulations to the Bluegrass Junior Woman's Club

For surpassing their goals on both major fundraisers:

Egg My Yard & Trivia Night

Congratulations to
Preshus Howard,
GFWC KY Director of Junior Clubs
On receiving the 2016
Millie Crom Award for Excellence
In Junior State Leadership Platinum Level

## Woman's blub of Marion

97th Anniversary



#### **Benton Woman's Club**

"Not what I can get, but what I can give"

Our Club events: Paint the Runway Pink Puttin' on the Mitz Holiday Tour of Homes

#### Pikeville Woman's Club, Inc.

Welcomes New Members

Kathy Adkins Derenda Duty
Olivia Dyer Dixie Helvey
Sharon Huffman Connie Little
Patsy SarosMary Beth Stiltner

The Woman's Club of Madisonville allows each club president to choose a Signature Project, budgeting \$500.00 for the project for each year of the club president's 2-year term. Our current president, Donna Vaughan, chose a walking theme for her 2-year term to encourage members, whose ages ranged from 27 to 92, to walk for the health benefits. She also wanted to emphasize these benefits of walking to the entire community. In determining how to best accomplish this, she realized there were many parts of the downtown that could be walked not only for health benefits, but also to discover or re-discover the history of the area.

For her Signature Project, Donna formed a committee that included other club members as well as community partners to create a downtown walking tour brochure. The committee, known as the Downtown Walking Tour Committee, met on a regular basis for over a year. They worked together creating and publishing Walk Madisonville! a brochure which contains three walking routes in the downtown area. The walks, the Art Walk, the History Walk, and the Patriotic Walk, highlight the area and encourage walking for health benefits.

When creating the initial committee, the goal was to incorporate various community agencies that would either have an interest in the historical aspects of the downtown area or the health benefits of walking. Nine community partners were added to the committee. Members of the local woman's club were also included, representing five of the six General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Community Service Programs.

At the first committee meeting, it was agreed that the committee would divide into smaller teams to facilitate the progress of the brochure. The woman's club members on the committee led the teams. The Arts/Conservation Team looked at art and gardens in the downtown area that could potentially be included in the brochure. The Education Team studied the historical points of interest in the area and the Public Issues Team reviewed monuments relating to veterans as well as government buildings. The Home Life Team looked at the health benefits of walking and potential health concerns related to walking in the downtown area such as crosswalks, bathrooms, etc.

With the dedication of the Downtown Walking Tour Committee, the financial support and encouragement of the Woman's Club of Madisonville, the in-kind donation of the Hopkins County Tourist and Convention Commission, and the financial support of the City of Madisonville, the project was successfully completed with 5,000 Walk Madisonville! brochures printed. These

#### The Radcliff Woman's Club

had glorious and entertaining Christmas Dinner. The highlight of the evening was recognizing our members with 50 or more years in the GFWC Kentucky. These women are a shinning example of supporting GFWC and their community.



Pictured from left Mary Haddix, Maria Batistoni(president, Radcliff Woman's Club), Barbara Proffitt, Jeannene Shipp, Mary Dea McCrory Not pictured is MaryAgnes Sears.

## Ossoli Club of Conbin Celebrates 80th Birthday



The Ossoli Club was formed at a dinner party held at the Arden Hotel in Corbin on February 8, 1938. These women felt the need for self improvement, and thought by bonding together a worthwhile program could be worked out that would be a benefit to all. At first, the group was composed mostly of teachers, unmarried girls who had quiet a bit of leisure time on their hands. The Ossoli Club of Corbin was admitted to the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs on December 30, 1938. Happy 80th Birthday to the Ossoli Club of Corbin.

Thanks GFWC KY Director Of Junior Clubs PRESHUS HOWARD

for working hard for KY Juniors!

We Are Proud Of You And To Call You OURS!

GFWC KY Barbourville Junior Woman's Study Club

KY's First Federated Junior Club - 1926 \* Barbourville, KY

# 2018 STATE CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION

Even though I see snow out my window this fine morning in April, I wanted to remind everyone about the Spring Silent Auction coming up in May.

Federation sisters and clubs are working on various shapes, sizes, and colors of door decorations for whatever time of year. They can be neat, orderly formal or wacko. The more original ideas the better.

The Silent Auction could also be a great venue for gently used or nearly new white elephant items. As I mentioned in December, the bigger the silent auction the better. (Remember I still have those 100 bid sheets I forgot last year and they are ready to go.)

AND, don't forget the pretend "Bling" table, which is candles, lotions, or items like Bath and Body things. I'm sure lots of us received gifts like that we would rather trade for something else. Be sure and contribute to the Donation Basket as well.

I think it's time to start packing because I can't wait until May. It will be so good to see you all again. Until then, Happy Federation Day and Derby Day.

