

# **Executive Board**



Gwen Grace President <u>gweng1999@yahoo.com</u>



Kathryn Gallagher Immediate Past President kathryngal@yahoo.com



Anne Vickery Treasurer vickeryat@gmail.com



Gloria Rogoski 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President rogoskigj@gmail.com



Jo Ann Hopkins Recording Secretary hopkins.joann@gmail.com



Jennifer Cope 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President jennylynncope@gmail.com



Jane Tumanic Corresponding Secretary jane.tum83@gmail.com



Jean Howard Assistant Treasurer jphoward\_fnp@hotmail.com



Linda Hall Parliamentary Advisor lindashall53@gmail.com

Note: Community Service Program (CSP) Chairs are also part of the Executive Board. Their photos and contact information appear later in this document.



# Website

# www.gfwcrotondawest.org

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/gfwcrotondawestwomansgroup

# **GFWC Florida Website**

www.gfwcflorida.org

**GFWC Website** 

www.gfwc.org

### Membership Requirements:

Residents of Rotonda West and surrounding areas are eligible for membership. A prospective member must attend a regular meeting and an orientation meeting before submitting a request for membership. Each prospective member may pay dues at the orientation meeting. Upon receipt of dues, the Assistant Treasurer will enter the new member's name into the Club records and will prepare a membership card. Each new member will be inducted at the next induction meeting.



On October 26, 1973, 36 women from Rotonda met with interest in forming a woman's club. On November 16th of that year temporary officers were selected. The following month charter membership was closed with 43 members. In January 1974, a committee approved the By-Laws and Standing Rules. In April the first officers were elected. On May 1, 1974, the Rotonda West Woman's Club was chartered as a member of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and on May 13<sup>th</sup> the first Officers were installed.

Helen Allison was the club's first president and at her suggestion a flagpole was erected in the traffic circle on Cape Haze Drive as a Community Bicentennial project. The project won a National Award. The dedication of the flagpole and the Community Bicentennial Celebration contributed to the winning of the annual "Women's World Awards" sponsored by the *Herald Tribune*, three years in succession.

Billie Dodds was the second president and her project was the formation of a local library. The five hundred book facility was dedicated in January 1977. The library continues to be available in the Rotonda Community Center to all members of the community and is still maintained by members of the Rotonda West Woman's Club.

In those early years \$1,000 was contributed to the West Charlotte Civic Center Building Fund, which became the Joseph Tringali Center. \$1,300 was donated to the Englewood Ambulance Fund and more was raised to refurbish G.C. Herring Park. There was representation on the board to establish the Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch program.

Our most notable contribution to the community is having donated over \$100,000 in scholarships to Lemon Bay High School Seniors and to Continuing Education applicants.

Through the years the club has held Rummage Sales, Bazaars, Fashion Shows, Teas, and Trivia Nights among other events to raise money to support our philanthropic purpose. Each year thousands of dollars are contributed to local charities as well as in-kind donations of clothing, groceries, and pet food for our neighbors in need. Donations are also made to GFWC Florida sponsored charities, such as Camp Boggy Creek and Canine Companions for Independence.

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club currently has over 140 members. We regularly meet at the Rotonda West Community Center in Broadmoor Park, 646 Rotonda Circle, where we have social time followed by our business meeting and programs.



## What Does Our Club Do?

**Board Meeting:** The Club's Executive Board, which is made up of the elected Officers and the Community Service Program (CSP) Chairmen, meets each month, September through May. The business of the Club is discussed. Programs and projects are presented by the CSP Chairmen for approval for presentation to the General Membership. All members are welcome to attend the Board Meeting, especially if the member has an issue she would like to discuss.

**General Meeting:** The Club's General Meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. The meeting consists of a social hour, business meeting and program.

**Programs:** Each Community Service Program must present a program during the year to comply with GFWC Florida requirements.

**Projects:** The Community Service Chairmen and committees develop projects related to their specific CSP. Through the projects we can give to the community and our General Membership is encouraged to participate. A recent project involves a partnership with the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation with the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court to provide children entering the foster care system with hand sewn bags filled with various items. Although created as a Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Project, each committee in the club has participated in filling the bags by donating age-appropriate books, pajamas, toothbrushes, and other personal hygiene items, hand-knitted and - crotched washcloths, comfort toys, and more, and by making handmade birthday cards. Additional bags are provided on a quarterly basis.

**Fundraisers:** Throughout the year it is necessary to have fundraisers to support our ever-growing list of worthwhile causes. GFWC Florida charities are also supported. Our volunteer efforts provide the donations that are voted on and approved by the membership.

**Federation Meetings:** GFWC Southern Region, GFWC Florida and District 12 present meetings throughout the year. The sessions provide the membership with the knowledge that they are a part of a larger community that works together for the Nation and the World. Any Club Member is welcome to attend. During the meetings, the latest information is provided at workshops and general sessions. Attendees bring back the information and materials to the Club to share and to enhance future programs.



## Symbolism of the

GFWC Emblem

GFWC's emblem depicts a circular band that signifies eternity. In the center of the circular band, the crusader's shield emerges from the darkened world (represented by the field of darkness), which represents enlightenment. The enameled colors – red, white and blue – are the colors of the United States of America.

#### The RED implies courage The WHITE equals purity The BLUE stands for constancy

### GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Song (Last Stanza of "America")

Our Father's God to thee Author of Liberty To thee we sing Long may our land be bright With Freedom's holy light Protect us by thy might Great God our King



# GFWC FLORIDA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Our GFWC Florida logo is one that we use to identify our State Federation. We are encouraged to use the GFWC shield logo and the GFWC Florida logo. GFWC Florida has so much to be proud of and using this GFWC Florida logo helps us identify our State and our GFWC Florida Clubs.

## GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

## **Club Colors**

Red and White

# Club Flower



Ixora



## **Member Awards**

#### **L.E.A.D.S.** (Leadership, Education and Development Seminar)

Florida LEADS is designed to identify members at the Club level who have a potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their Clubs. Florida LEADS will provide participants with the knowledge, capability, confidence and commitment to work more effectively in their Clubs.

The Florida LEADS seminar is held annually at various locations. It is a full day of activities. The program touches on time management, conflict resolution, parliamentary procedure, public speaking skills, delegating, protocol, GFWC organization history and additional related topics.

Criteria for Participation in Florida LEADS:

- Demonstrate an interest in pursuing leadership within the club.
- Demonstrate life skills: organization, responsibility, flexibility & enthusiasm.
- Exhibit an interest and willingness to pursue leadership positions.
- Agree to share information gained from participation in Florida LEADS.
- Has **not** held elected positions at or beyond the state level.
- Has **not** attended a previous LEADS Program (eligibility is limited to once).

Selection Process: (On occasion only one candidate per District is selected. More often, one nominee from each club is invited to attend annual LEADS.).

- Each Club may nominate one candidate who meets the criteria
- The GFWC FL LEADS committee will select from among the nominees and will notify those selected by the first week in January that they have been selected to attend the February LEADS Training in Lakeland
- One candidate will be chosen from those attending the Florida LEADS Seminar as the GFWC LEADS participant to attend the International Convention held during the month of June.

Connie Friess – Leads 2015 Kathryn Gallagher – Leads 2016 Lois LeVasseur - Leads 2018 Clare Imrie – Leads 2019 Gwen Grace – Leads 2020 Liz Moore – Leads 2021 Jennifer Cope – 2022 Gloria Rogoski – 2023 Linda Hall - 2024



# GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB, INC. GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year Award

The GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year Award is annually given to one Woman's Club member who best exemplifies outstanding service through volunteerism. The award includes service rendered through GFWC Florida but also includes volunteer efforts in other organizations as well, including other civic, fraternal, and religious organizations. The recipient of the award is a member who has given unselfishly of her time and energy for worthwhile causes, to help others, to better her community and her world. Volunteer work must have been performed during the current calendar year (January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>). Each club may nominate one member for the GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year Award and nominations must be sent to the district no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **GFWC Jennie June Award**

During the 2004 – 2006 Administration, the Federation awarded the first GFWC Jennie June Award to one Clubwoman from each of the GFWC's eight regions. The women were chosen by their Clubs, States, Regions and a National GFWC Jennie June Award Committee at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC, for their outstanding commitment to Club, community, and family. The award is named in honor of Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC's founder. The Jennie June Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.





In 2021, GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club was honored to nominate Past President and District 12 Director Charlotte Arcadia for the Jennie June Award. Charlotte was selected as GFWC Florida Jennie June and represented GFWC FL at the So. Region Convention held at Rosen Plaza, Orlando, FL in October 2021.



# **QUICK GUIDE TO RWWC LEADERSHIP**

Please refer to Member Roster For contact information

#### **Community Service Program Chairs**

Arts & Culture:

Kathy Altenburg

**Civic Engagement & Outreach:** 

Education & Libraries: Education: ESO: Scholarship:

Health & Wellness:

**Environment:** 

**GFWC Signature Program:** Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention:

**Bev Dobbins** Linda Hall

Kara Kelly **Doris Walker** Debra Sigismondo

Clare Imrie Ellen Lang

**Janet Rojas** Rachele Adler

Kathy Kean

**GFWC FL President's Project** 

Kathryn Gallagher





**GFWC RWWC Yearbook** 

January 2024



# GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB, INC. Arts & Culture CSP



The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program (CSP)

encourages members to promote and support arts activities in their clubs, schools, and communities. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make their world a more beautiful place. The goal is to create programs and projects that include music, literature, dance, drama, theatre, and other artsrelated areas, both traditional and innovative, that cause the world around us to see and feel what might have only once been imagined.

**Chairman** Kathy Altenburg kathy6150@aol.com



# **Musical Arts within Our Community - Tonettes**



Judy Long gdmajudy@yahoo.com

The Tonettes Choral Group was organized in 1999. Its purpose is to sing for the enjoyment of the members and to share that pleasure with others in the Club and the community. Programs vary throughout the year. Singing engagements at Assisted Living and Nursing Homes and other organizations upon request are arranged by the Director. Any member may join who likes to sing and enjoys the social camaraderie. Practices are normally held each Tuesday afternoon at the Rotonda Community Center.





# Arts & Culture CSP, Page 2...

# **Creative Arts within Our Community**

Bazaar Chairman

Linda Bermea Ibermea1@hotmail.com



The Creative Crafters Chairman and the Bazaar Chairman are confirmed by the President. The Creative Crafters meet each Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, February through October at the Rotonda Community Center. Their focus is to imagine and prepare hand-made items that will be sold at the annual Bazaar. The Bazaar Chairman oversees the Bazaar Project and works hand in hand with the Creative Crafters Chairman.

#### Knit & Chat Chairman

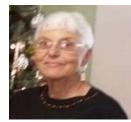
Lois LaVesseur

lolevasse52@gmail.com



The Knit & Chat Chairman is confirmed by the President. The group meets at the Rotonda Community Center on Tuesdays during the club year from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Chairman coordinates the projects for which the group knits and crochets providing mittens at Christmas for the Myakka School Mitten Tree; Caps for newborn infants via Healing Art Missions in Dumay, Haiti; Blankets and mittens for outreach in many corners of the world. The Knit & Chat group also prepares items for sale at the Club's Annual Bazaar.

Sew N' Sews Chairman Jackie Miller jackie2gm@gmail.com



The Sew N' Sews not only create unique and exquisite items for the Club's Bazaar, but they also provide help for any CSP requesting assistance, such as: hospital gowns for Operation Smile, Little Dresses for Africa, centerpieces for ESO luncheons and many other desirable items as the need arises.



# GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB, INC. Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP

Civic and social responsibilities are key components in our lives. The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program is designed to actively connect members with effective projects and activities relating to civic and social responsibilities. Our program focuses on civic outreach, military personnel, emergency/disaster preparedness and safety.



**Co-Chairman** Linda Hall <u>lindashall53@gmail.com</u>



**Co-Chairman** Bev Dobbins bosartbev@sbcglobal.net



#### **Wreaths Across America**



Post Ian Relief Donations from GFWC Florida Sisters



Memorial Day 2022 Flag Ceremony





## **Education & Libraries CSP**

Literacy, broadly conceived as the basic knowledge and skill needed in a rapidly changing world, is a fundamental human right. There are millions, the majority of whom are women, who lack opportunities to learn or have insufficient skills to be able to assert this right. Our challenge is to enable them to do so. Literacy is a catalyst for participating in social, cultural, political, and economic activities, as well as for learning throughout life. GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club annually awards three scholarships to graduating seniors from Lemon Bay High School to pursue university degrees or technical training. We also sponsor three sophomores from LBHS to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Scholarship Program (HOBY) and provide two Bella Williams Continuing Education Scholarships. In the past two years, we have delivered Diversity & Kindness Libraries to our local public school. We have provided books that support comfort, stability, understanding, patience, and kindness. We further support education and educators with Back-to-School Supplies and Teacher Appreciation Gifts. Our CSP partners with our local library to sponsor youth programs. We have a history of volunteering and activism that makes us very proud.

#### Education Chairman

Kara Kelly



babs013@comcast.net

ESO <u>Chairman</u>

**Doris Walker** 



dew414@comcast.net

Scholarship <u>Chairman</u>

Debra Sigismondo



sqad7@aol.com



### Rotonda West Community Center Library

Founded to serve the community by the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club in 1977, the library is still organized and operated by members of the Club. Current books including large print are available to Rotonda residents Monday through Friday just by signing out the book at the library desk.



# Education & Libraries CSP Page 2

Since 2018, more than 2,000 books have been donated by Rotonda West Woman's Club members and Rotonda residents and given to children in our local community to assist with literacy programs. This Book Heroes Program continues as a GFWC Florida statewide program.

Having founded over 474 public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries in the 1930s, the American Library Association credited GFWC with establishing 75% of America's public libraries.

### ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron)

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all GFWC federated club members. Over 60 years ago, the ESO program became a permanent part of the GFWC Education Department. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth.

In 2019 GFWC Florida placed #1 within International GFWC for the most books read through the ESO program. GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club's six ESO Book Groups read more than 2,000 of the winning 4,000 books reported by all GFWC Florida.



#### GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club ESO Book Clubs

(Members meet monthly and discuss various books)

Brunch Buddies Debra Sigismondo sqad7@aol.com

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Reading Divas Kathy Bennett steelermonroe@gmail.com <u>Golden Girls</u> Ellen Lang grammylang@gmail.com

Happy Bookers Doris Walker dew414@comcast.net <u>Socialites</u> Diane Oglesby <u>btoglesby@comcast.net</u>

<u>Chapter Chicks</u> Betsy Bouchard <u>betsybou@yahoo.com</u>



### **Environment CSP**

The GFWC Environment Community Service Program (CSP) is designed for members to gain an appreciation of our environment. The Club strives to educate members about the importance of beautifying our communities, preserving, maintaining, and restoring natural resources, and stimulates citizen action to address these concerns. Our natural resources include, but are not limited to, water, trees, plants, air, land, and wildlife. It works to preserve, maintain, and restore our natural resources; protect habitats for plants and animals; and develop sustainable habits.

To volunteer, please contact either co-chairman.

Co-Chairman





Co-Chairman

Rachele Adler readl22@gmail.com





South Gulf Cove 5k to support local animal rescue groups



Earth Day Tringali Park Cleanup Part of the Great American Cleanup



2022 GFWC Environment CSP 1<sup>st</sup> place award for outstanding accomplishments.



GFWC RWWC Yearbook



## Health & Wellness CSP

The GFWC Health and Wellness Community Service Program (CSP) is designed to involve club members in activities that affect the well-being of individuals, families, and communities by providing opportunities through volunteering and fundraising. Through various programs, members develop and implement projects that promote a healthy lifestyle; increase awareness, prevention, research and treatment of common illnesses and diseases; and address the issues of hunger, inadequate housing, and homelessness.

**Co-Chairman** Claire Imrie

claireimrieuk@hotmail.com

**Co-Chairman** Ellen Lang grammylang@gmail.com



**OneBlood Donations** 





The Walk to End Alzheimer's

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Kicks for Kids



## **GFWC Signature Program:**

### **Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**

GFWC is a national leader in the fight to end domestic violence by raising awareness about this social issue. The goal of the signature program is to help prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women in communities across the nation by working with national domestic violence networks, supporting existing activities, establishing programs and initiating educational occasions for club members and local citizens. GFWC is a powerful voice for those who have no voice.

In Charlotte County, Florida, the County Sherriff's Domestic Violence investigators and analysts are responsible for reviewing all offenses related to domestic violence within the County. The goal is to monitor and target violent offenders to ensure their release stipulations are being followed. Offenders are served with a letter from the Sheriff explaining the focused approach to reduce domestic related violence. The Domestic Violence unit works with patrol deputies, supervisors and the States Attorney's Office to see that incidents of domestic abuse are properly documented, followed up on and, if possible, prosecuted. The detectives fall under the Major Case Section, which was established to take a holistic approach to stemming violent crime. Proudly working alongside D.C.F. and the C.A.R.E. Victim Advocacy Center, the CCSO assists with contacting victims for safety and guidance. Charlotte County Sherriff's Office (941) 639-2101



Kathy Kean, Chairman Ladypoodle1@gmail.com





### Sample of Programs We Support

#### Arts & Culture CSP

Creative Crafters GFWC District 12 Arts Competition Elementary School Arts Competition Knit & Chat Sew N Sews Tonettes

#### Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

A.N.A.'s Kids Heifer International Veterans Affairs/Women in the Military Wreaths Across America

#### Education & Libraries CSP

Bonnie Wine Leadership Legacy for Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program Continuing Education Scholarships RWWC Diversity & Kindness Library Program GFWC Book Heroes Lemon Bay High School Graduate Scholarships Tidewell Nurse Residency Program

#### Environment CSP

Keep Charlotte Beautiful/Adopt a Road Resource Conservation Englewood Animal Rescue (EARS) International Coastal Cleanup Great American Cleanup Suncoast Humane Society

#### Health & Wellness CSP

Backpack Kidz Englewood Community Care Clinic Kids' Needs and Kicks for Kids OneBlood Big Red Bus Blood Drives Shot@Life Walk to End Alzheimer's

#### Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention

Charlotte County Sheriff's Domestic Violence Unit Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.) of Punta Gorda Red Rover/Purple Leash Program

#### <u>GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Standing Committee Chairs</u> (Non-Board Positions) Please refer to the Member's Portal for Contact Information

#### **Membership**

Membership Committee Chair (elected 2<sup>nd</sup> VP) Visitor Reception

Hospitality Photographer Jennifer Cope Diane Oglesby Kathy Messick Jane Bartholomay Linda Muir

Gwen Grace Jennifer Cope Gloria Rogoski

Doris Walker Judy Long Jean Howard

Donna Krabbe Mary Ann Zipp Gwen Grace Gloria Rogoski

Kathryn Gallagher TBD -- See Bylaws TBD -- See Bylaws Linda Bermea Kathy Altenburg Sandy Langenfelder Rachele Adler Lois LeVasseur Kathryn Gallagher TBD -- See Bylaws Sue Baran, Joanne Murphy Sande Prentis Jackie Miller Bev Dobbins Judy Long

Yearbook

Chaplin Pianist RWWC Logo T-Shirts

#### <u>Communication</u>

Chatter Newsletter Publicity Telephone & Email to Members Website

#### **Responsibilities**

Advisor Audit Bylaws Bazaar Creative Crafters Historian Fundraising Coordinator Knit & Chat Media Book Nominating Opportunity Drawing/Share the Wealth Rotonda West CC Library Sew N' Sews Sunshine Tonettes/Choral Group



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#### **GFWC FLORIDA FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUBS**

#### Linda O'Toole, PRESIDENT

President's Project 2022 – 2024



Organized February 21, 1895 Green Cove Springs, Florida

FEDERATED JANUARY 25, 1898

Federation Motto: In great things, unity; In small things, liberty; In all things, charity.

Federation Colors: Red, White and Blue

**GFWC Florida Headquarters** 4444 Florida National Drive Lakeland, Florida 33813

Phone: (863) 647-2642 / Fax: (863) 648 -1010 Email Address: gfwcflorida@aol.com Website: www.gfwcflorida.org

2023-2024

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

### **HEADQUARTERS**

2020 - 2022



# Debra Strahanoski

### International President

### **National Headquarters**

1734 N Street NW Washington DC, 20036

202-347-3168 FAX 202-835-0246 Email Address: <u>gfwc@gfwc.org</u> Website: <u>www.gfwc.org</u>

**GFWC Signature Project** Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

# **GFWC Southern Region**

The Southern Region consists of the following states: Alabama, Aruba, Belize, *Florida*, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina

# COLLECT

Keep us, O God, from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding And leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense And meet each other face to face, Without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgement And always generous. Let us take time for all things. Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, Straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is the little things That create differences, That in the big things of life we are at one. And may we strive to touch and to know The great, common human heart of us all. And, O Lord God, Let us forget not to be kind.