

GFWC CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

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Welcome to the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP! I am excited to serve as your chairman for the 2022-2024 Administration. My goal is to provide information for you to be able to pass on in your state and assist you in this area. Please feel free to share this newsletter with clubs in your state.



www.GFWC.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

GFWC members are reminded that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for addressing issues of public concern. We advocate because there is a need, we volunteer because we are needed. Our focus is on our community and looking for better ways to make an impact.

UNDERSTANDING THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Civic Engagement and Outreach are highlighted and encouraged. Many areas are emphasized and identified, however, your projects and programs are most important in reaching out and preparing for community outreach and impact. You will make the difference.

Essential Workers

Citizenship

Crime Prevention

Safety and Disaster Preparedness

Needy, Hungry and Homeless

Military Personal

Veterans

Women Veteran Support and Outreach

THE POWER OF YOU:

A GFWC ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES

POWER UP: ELEMENTS OF ADVOCACY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
7:00 PM

POWER UP: LAC IS FOR ME

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER TUTORIAL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26
7:00 PM

POWER UP: LEGISLATION AND LEADERSHIP

PAST SUCCESSES AND CURRENT PRIORITIES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
7:00 PM

POWER UP: PARTNERS TOWARD PROGRESS

(PARTS 1, 2, 3)
GFWC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION ADVOCACY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 16, 23
7:00 PM

REGISTER NOW



Oatmeal Raisin Cookies (for those essential workers, or YOU!)

These are one of my favorites! And the cooling part at the end, I love them warm with coffee or milk!

And, maybe they are kind of healthy?



Ingredients

- **1/2 cup butter (1stick) plus 6 tbsp. butter**
- **3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar**
- **1/2 cup granulated sugar**
- **2 eggs**
- **1 teaspoon vanilla**
- **1 teaspoon baking soda**
- **1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- **1 teaspoon cinnamon**
- **1/2 teaspoon salt**
- **1 cup raisins or craisins**
- **3 cups Quaker Oats (quick or old fashioned) Uncooked**

Steps

Heat oven to 350. In large bowl, beat butter and sugars on medium speed of electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla, beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt-mix well. Add oats and raisins, mix well. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons onto greased cookie sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes until light golden brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets then move to wire rack. Cool Completely. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS January-February

JANUARY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

BE KIND TO FOOD SERVER'S MONTH

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

GET ORGANIZED MONTH

NATIONAL OATMEAL MONTH

NATIONAL THANK YOU MONTH



January 15 Martin Luther King Day

January 18 Museum Selfie Day

January 20 National Take a Walk outside Day

January 31 National Hot Chocolate Day

FEBRUARY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS MONTH

February 3 National Female Physician Day

February 4 National Mail Carrier Day

February 11 National Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 13 Galantine's Day (send some love to a girlfriend!)

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday

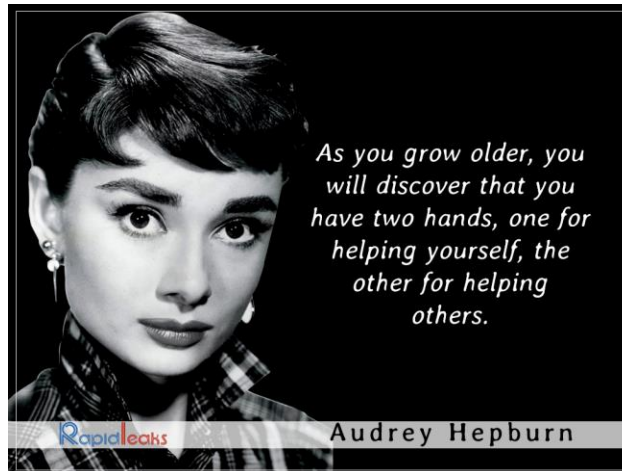
February 15 World Hippopotamus Day (who knew this?)

Happy New Year 2023 is the year of the Rabbit –

A year of HOPE



2023 is a year of the Water Rabbit, starting from January 22nd, 2023 (Chinese New Year), and ending on February 9th, 2024 (Chinese New Year's Eve). The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. **2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.**



Hunger in America

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, unemployment and food insecurity soared. In 2021, 53 million people turned to food banks and food pantries. These community programs are a source of nutrition, and help put food on the table. Many households do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and visit food banks and food pantries for help. MANY have never had to use these services before. One paycheck lost, one medical emergency, one transportation breakdown, the electric bill or gas bill goes up. Families cannot provide for their families. As part of Civic Engagement and Outreach, your members can do a monthly drive for your local pantry. Things that begin with the same letter as the month. Example: ****January-Jam, Jellies**February-Canned Fruit**March-Macaroni****

Make it fun and collect for others.

Legislative Updates on our Military



Active-Duty Military

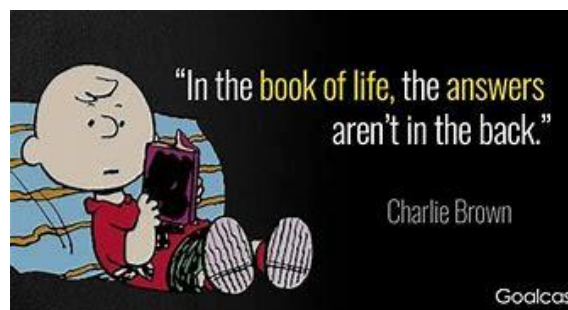
Congress provided full funding of \$479 million to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, including \$47 million for the expansion and implementation of the Sexual Assault Special Victims' Counseling Program. The FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) also removed the crime of sexual harassment from the military chain of command; the crimes of sexual assault, murder, kidnapping, child abuse, and domestic violence were removed from the chain of command in the FY 2022 NDAA.

The 117th Congress (2021-2022) acted on many legislative priorities of GFWC. As volunteers, clubwomen across the Nation have utilized the GFWC Legislative Action Center to call for action in Congress. To support many initiatives, GFWC leadership joined with other like-minded organizations and co-signed letters of support to multiply the voices of women calling for action.

GFWC has a major role to play in civic engagement, and you can learn more by joining the GFWC Legislation/Public Policy Committee as we present a webinar series, [***The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series***](#), scheduled for each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. ET, beginning January 19. New legislative priorities will be set for the 118th Congress. *Together We Advocate for Those in Need!*

Charles Schultz American Cartoonist

His initial theme was centered on his loneliness in the US Army and frustrations with everyday life. One of his themes was about the cruelty that existed among children, thus Charlie Brown was born. Snoopy, the World War I flying ace, in 1960 became the official mascot for NASA.



COMING SOON---AWARD ENTRIES

Many states are preparing their end of the year award entries.

This is the time to SHINE and GLITTER!



Why are award entries important?

They are the spark to recognize and acknowledge outstanding work.

Provide statistical information for Legislative efforts.

Assist with the promotion of Affiliate Organizations and potential funding.

Help create a history of GFWC volunteer efforts.

Remember award entries are a product of the work of the state federations and an historical gathering of each state and each club's projects. All volunteer efforts are beneficial and worth the time put in to completing the award entry.

You need to emphasize the Community Impact. All of the community awareness and community support that address the needs in the community, including all communications, publicity, legislation, media and/or social media coverage.

Achievement of Program Area Goals. How was the success of the project achieved? Did you measure the long term and short term goals? Does it impact GFWC program area goals?

Description of the work effort. Unique, interesting, failed, accomplished, and achieved? Did you include partnerships with community organizations, non-profits, other businesses, or GFWC Affiliate Organizations? Was it creative and involved your members?

Engagement of Club Members. How was it accomplished? The project activities, did they raise awareness and achieve goals? Were members involved and excited to be a part of the project? Did everyone have a role?

Public Exposure. The awareness of the project. Was it shared on social media, was it published, did you pay for advertisement? What was done to make the community aware of the event or project?

GFWC Affiliate Organization Highlight – March of Dimes

Hello GFWC! I am passing along the end-of-year highlights from March of Dimes.

- Check out the 2022 Report Card to share with your members: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/report-card>
 - Stay updated on our Advocacy efforts here: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/get-involved/advocate>
- We've learned there is potential for the legislation to be passed as part of a year-end package in the US Senate. To help push it over the finish line, please:
 - You can also access the campaign at <https://p2a.co/WECnFRK>
- March of Dimes Board of Trustees Vice Chair Dr. David L Lakey shares his response to the Measles outbreak we are seeing in Ohio.
 - “Measles is a highly contagious disease and can be dangerous to the health of newborns, children, and adults. March of Dimes encourages all families to vaccinate their children against measles and other vaccine-preventable illnesses. Pregnant women who contract measles are at risk for more severe complications of the illness, as well as at increased risk for preterm birth. We urge families to speak with their primary care doctor about routine vaccinations or visit marchofdimes.org/vaccines for more information on vaccines and links to find local providers who deliver no-cost vaccines to eligible families.”
- Has your organization scheduled a March for Babies Pep up Rally date yet for 2023? Be sure to work with your March of Dimes liaison to set this up for early 2023!
- As the end of 2022 approaches, March of Dimes hopes you'll keep our families in mind when you make your 100% tax-deductible donation: <http://marchofdimes.org/donate>

Make it a great week for moms, babies, and families!

**HEALTHY
MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.**



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[MARCHOFDIMES.ORG](https://marchofdimes.org)

Looking Ahead-World Essential Workers Day---March 15

Community Connection Initiative: A Little THANKS Goes A Long Way.

World Essential Workers Day is celebrated each year across the world on March 15. The day is observed to express gratitude to all essential workers whose contributions often go unrecognized. Essential workers are crucial to any economy. They take care of all essential functions. We are surrounded by essential workers and in almost every critical situation, essential workers are the first responders. Essential workers consist of police forces, healthcare workers, workers in the sanitary department, and more. Without them, our lives would pretty much come to a standstill. We wish a happy World Essential Workers Day to every essential worker.

World Essential Workers Day originated in 2021. It is the brainchild of a young, nine-year-old girl, Ja'Nay Ratcliff from central Texas, who has proven that you can do anything only if you set your mind to it. She had a conversation with the mayor of Killeen where she requested that all essential workers be honored on a designated day. Ratcliff wanted to honor essential workers, such as fire department and police department personnel, who risk their lives in critical situations putting their own safety in jeopardy.

Ratcliff was especially moved by the sacrifices of essential workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The mayor agreed with Ratcliff's suggestion and honored essential workers during a State of the City Address.

Ratcliff was inspired by her mother, Shawnya Golden, who is a social worker. Golden, too, has been involved in the upliftment of essential workers and enthusiastically supported her daughter in the fight to establish World Essential Workers Day. Her mother is especially appreciative of the fact that someone so young would be sympathetic to such an important cause. Apart from being a kind person, Ratcliff is also a talented writer. She has already written three books at the age of nine! Ratcliff hopes to write more books and continue doing good deeds for other people throughout her life. World Essential Workers Day is a true lesson in kindness and charity.