

"Give them something to talk about!"



# FOCUS



The Newsletter of the  
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut

Volume 37, Edition 10

Spring 2011

www.gfwcct.org

## President JoAnn Calnen



Dear Members,

We are approaching the end of the first year of this administration and we should be proud of the commitment given to GFWC/CT. I asked all of you to "give them something to talk about!", whether it was a fellow club member, sister club, district or state federation, and I am thrilled with how you have fulfilled my request.

Club members, your presidents presented remarkable reports at the January board meeting. When asked to share a memorable project, they did so with pride.

Community Service Program ideas were shared giving clubs ideas and opportunities in support of Domestic Violence Awareness projects, Advocates for Children and the Digital Reflection Project, veterans projects, and our State Project, CT Foodbank and Foodshare. The response from clubs has been wonderful. Thank you all for meeting the changes in the reporting process with good spirits and willing hands.

We have, as an organization, taken a large step when we voted to obtain a 501 (c) (3) group determination status for our state federation and participating clubs. Clubs are moving forward with this endeavor. Please ask all the questions you need to feel comfortable with this process.

Federation is all about our members, and clubs have been diligently working on campaigns and methods of retention and growth; our strength is in our membership.

District meetings are coming soon. District directors have spent many hours working with the clubs to offer a great day to the members of each district. It is one of the nicest days in our calendar

and it will be a pleasure to attend each of them. Please plan to attend your district day and take the opportunity to network with your sister clubs.

Join us for one or both days of the May Convention and share in our successes, learn what we are doing, and have a voice in proposed bylaws or resolutions. It is also an opportunity to be inspired by the talent of our members as we view the Arts and Crafts submitted by our clubs. The call is included in this issue of Focus. It will be an honor to participate in the presentation of awards and to recognize the contributions our clubs have given to the communities of CT this past year.

My thanks to each member for giving your time and your skills to GFWC/CT.

In Federation Friendship,

*JoAnn Calnen*

JoAnn Calnen

## First Vice President Nancy Kalyan

I want to thank all of the Club Presidents for your excellent job giving your most memorable project reports at our January Board Meeting. They were all wonderful club moments that you shared with us. I will be putting a short synopsis of each club's reports together and they will be handed out at each District Day for your information to use along with the full collection available from Pat Kearney. I hope everyone enjoyed the order that we put the clubs in this year, alphabetical and (sm. med .lg.). Please let me know your thoughts if you would like to continue in this manner or not.

We are very pleased in the great response from our clubs in their desire to be under the GFWC/CT 501 (c) (3) umbrella that we will be instituting. Remember that if your club desires to be joining us, we need to

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receive all the following information by June 30, 2011:

- a. Letter on club letterhead stating the club's wish to be included in the group determination and listing the club officers names, addresses and contact information.
- b. Copy of the club bylaws, with object and dissolution clauses as previously described.
- c. If the club is incorporated, a copy of the club certificate of incorporation amended if necessary.
- d. Copy of any previous letter of determination received by the club and the copy of the letter requesting termination of that status.
- e. Copy of the IRS form issuing the EIN to the club.
- f. Copy of certificate of charitable registration by State of Connecticut or copy of certificate of exemption.
- g. Check in the amount of \$100 payable to GFWC/CT.

Any questions or further information can be obtained by the handout packet that was given to all Club Presidents at the January Board Meeting or call JoAnn Calnen or me.

In an even year, at the Annual Convention it is the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president's responsibility to collect the applications for the GFWC/CT Volunteer Achievement Award to a nominated GFWC/CT member by their club. I am looking for clubs to nominate one (1) designated member from their club for this award. Entries are to be submitted by February 1, 2012. This award will be given at the end of the two-year administration. All criteria information on this award is listed in your Red Book - Pink pages under GFWC/CT Club Member Awards.

**Third Vice President  
Kim Hohlfeld**

I am pleased to report that the planning for our seven Spring District Days is well underway. I want to thank our District and Assistant District Directors for their diligent planning and coordinating with their respective presidents. They are committed to providing us with a very special event. Thank you for all your efforts.

As this administration began, our State President, JoAnn Calnen, asked each GFWC/CT member to make increasing membership and strengthening our clubs a priority throughout the state. We were asked to "Give Them Something to Talk About!" Well ladies, you are answering this request. Our "Rake in New Members" Membership Campaign welcomed 89 new members to

GFWC/CT. Recruitment numbers for our "Winter Flurry of Members" are still being tallied. Club successes are being shared so that each club in the state may benefit. Keep up the great work. Although we have "A lot to Talk About," we still have much work to do.

I have been visiting clubs and hearing a common theme. "We need help gaining new members." As we sit and discuss specific club challenges, certain things are clear. The first step is to reestablish a sense of enthusiasm and pride back into your club. We are working closely with Club Presidents, encouraging them to find programs and events that will rekindle their member's interest. Remind them why they joined GFWC/CT in the first place. Potential members cannot help but be impressed by the work of a proud Clubwoman. Not sure what your members' interests are? There is a survey that has been created to determine that.

If the name of your local club is not a household name in your community, we can help. Let us share ideas that have helped in other communities. A template for a club brochure now exists that is available to clubs. It is crucial to the success of your club to have such PR materials. Now it is easier than ever before to promote your club. Are you networking with other nonprofits in your community? Are you posting club information on community websites? Many valuable resources and ideas exist to help; I encourage you to tap into those resources.

I welcome the opportunity to visit each of our GFWC/CT clubs during this administration. We are proving that networking ideas between clubs within our state is successful. Please call or e-mail to expand your membership efforts at 860-364-7441 or [ralph.hohlfeld@snet.net](mailto:ralph.hohlfeld@snet.net).

As one of the largest women's volunteer organizations in the world, we are over 2,350 members strong here in Connecticut. Thanks to your efforts, we are growing every day!

**Recording Secretary  
Pat Kearney**

Members attending the January 22 board meeting enjoyed hearing the oral presentations of our club presidents highlighting their favorite project. We have decided to put them all into a notebook and make it available to any club who would like to borrow it and perhaps pick up some new ideas on what could work in your club. It will be a very interesting and informative read. We will have it available at our next board meeting.



*General Federation of Women's Clubs of  
Connecticut, Inc.*

**OFFICIAL CALL TO GFWC/CT  
MAY CONVENTION**

JoAnn Calnen, *President*



“Give them something to talk about in Friendship”



**MAY 13 & 14, 2011**

**CROWNE PLAZA, CROMWELL – 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416**

Preliminary Agenda

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**

3:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting  
5:00 PM Convention Committee Meeting

**Friday, May 13, 2011**

8:00 AM Registration and Coffee (8-9:30 AM)  
8:30 AM Fundraising and Exhibits open  
9:30 AM CALL TO ORDER of the 114<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT Annual Convention  
Opening ceremonies, preliminary report of credentials  
Presentation of convention rules  
Presentation of convention program  
Words of history  
Reports of GFWC/CT Officers  
Community Service program awards and reports  
International Collaboration CSP  
International Partnership CSP  
Communications and Identity  
Pressbook  
Ursula Casioppo Federation Awareness Award

11:30 AM Recess for Social - Cash Bar  
12:00 Noon Lunch

**Friday, May 13, 2011 (continued)**

12:00-12:45 PM Registration  
1:15 PM Speaker: CT PTA  
2:00 PM Community Service Program awards  
and reports  
Fundraising  
WHRC  
Public Issues Partnership CSP  
Public Issues Collaboration CSP  
Veterans hospitals  
Domestic Violence Awareness &  
Education GFWC Signature Project  
Conservation Partnership CSP  
Conservation Collaboration CSP  
Vancisin Award  
3:15 PM Recess  
5:30-7:00 PM Registration  
6:45 PM Processional forms  
7:00 PM Processional  
Banquet  
Greetings from Past State Presidents  
8:30-10:00 PM Entertainment: Peter Niedmann  
Vocals and keyboard  
10:00 PM Reception, State President's suite



## Saturday, May 14, 2011

7:00 AM Registration and Coffee (7-9:30 AM)  
Arts and Crafts Registration

**No crafts will be accepted after 9:30AM**

8:30 AM Fundraising and Exhibits open

9:30 AM Meeting reconvenes

9:30 AM Memorial service

Report of the Bylaws Committee  
Community Service Program Awards  
Education Collaboration CSP and ESO  
Education Partnership CSP  
Laurel Girls State  
Memorial Scholarships  
Home Life Collaboration CSP  
Home Life Partnership CSP  
Arts Collaboration CSP  
Arts Partnership CSP  
Naoma Morgenstern Award  
Senior High School Arts Festival  
Advocates for Children  
Report of Resolutions committee  
Membership

12:00 PM Recess: Social – cash bar  
Viewing of Arts & Crafts

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM

Speaker: Erika Tindill  
Executive Director, CT Coalition  
Against Domestic Violence - CCADV  
Arthritis Links – Sue Nesci  
Chief Public Policy Officer  
Arthritis Foundation-New England Region  
Lafontaine VIP Award  
Leadership Awards  
State Project  
Arts & Crafts Award  
Announcements / Raffles

2:15 PM

3:15 PM

Adjournment

**Memorial Service:** Club presidents are asked to submit the names of members that have passed away since May, 2010 to June Zeiner, 57 Dorothy Drive, Torrington, CT 06790 – 806 489-7258 – [jzeiner@att.net](mailto:jzeiner@att.net). Please forward the names of members, the name of the club, club president name and contact information to June *by May12, 2011*.

**Arthritis Links:** Clubs are asked to bring their Arthritis Links to the registration desk. **The Links must be looped and connected before dropping them off.**

**Domestic Violence Awareness:** We will be collecting full size women's toiletries including toothpaste and toothbrushes for Domestic Violence Victims. If you would like to make a donation, the collection box will be at the registration desk both Friday and Saturday.

**Door Prizes:** Board Members and Clubs are requested to bring a Door Prize with Club or individual name attached. Additional door prizes will be appreciated from clubs with a large number of attendees.

**Rooms are available** at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell at a GFWC/CT rate of \$104/night plus appropriate fees and taxes. Call 860-635-2000 and ask for House Reservations. Our code is GF-1. Deadline is April 19, 2011.

Directions to Crowne Plaza, Cromwell ~ 860-635-2000

Take I-91 N or S to EXIT 21. Turn Left off the Exit. Hotel is on the Left.



# REGISTRATION AND MEAL FORM GFWC/CT 114th MAY CONVENTION

May 13 & 14 2011

**\*\* REGISTRATION DEADLINE Friday, April 29, 2011 - ONE FORM PER PERSON - Photocopies accepted \*\***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

GFWC/CT Board Position \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a 2010-2011 Club President {} Yes {} No

**REGISTRATION:** \$5 for part of / or One Day \$10 for Two Days of Conference \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MEAL CHOICES:**

**Friday Lunch** – May 13<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon \$28.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Italian Buffet ~ Pasta fagiola, Caesar salad, Antipasto, Italian herb chicken, Penne pasta  
Arrabiatta, Tuscan style vegetables.

**Friday Night Banquet** – May 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM \$ 33.00 Please mark your selection \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Grilled Salmon fillet \_\_\_\_\_
- BisteccaTuscano center cut sirloin \_\_\_\_\_
- Chicken Pommeray \_\_\_\_\_
- Vegetable Napoleon \_\_\_\_\_

All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, potatoes or rice, assorted rolls & butter  
Dessert is Carmel apple deep dish pie \* Plated dessert fruit plate for diabetic guests, coffee & tea

**Saturday Lunch** – May 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30PM \$28.00 Please mark your selection \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- English cut Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_
- Roasted Chicken breast marinated in orange ginger broth \_\_\_\_\_
- Seared Tilapia with fresh mango chutney \_\_\_\_\_

All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, assorted rolls & butter  
Dessert is assorted cakes and pies \* Fruit for diabetic guests, coffee & tea

Please note Vegetarian or any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

It would be appreciated if Clubs send all reservations at one time  
Make check out for TOTAL payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:  
**Kathy Tobin, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, PO Box 548, Northford, CT 06472**

DISPLAY TABLE RESERVATION FORM  
(Photocopies accepted)  
Full Table \$15.00 - Half Table \$7.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Club: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please have tables ready by 8:30AM**  
Make checks payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:  
**Kathy Tobin, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, PO Box 548, Northford, CT 06472**

There is no charge for tables to CSP Chairmen and Committee Chairmen, but registration is required

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## **Proposed Amendments to GFWC/CT bylaws to be presented at the 2011 State Convention**

Bylaws Committee: Charlotte Stopa, Chairman /Beverly Leone/Barbara Burns/Peg Forbell/Gloria St. Pierre

### **Article V Section A number 3.**

**Current:**

3. No member shall hold more than one elective office at one time.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Insert the word "state" before the word "elective"

If amended, would read:

No member shall hold more than one *state* elective office at one time.

Rationale: To clarify meaning.

### **Article V Section C number 1**

**Current:**

She shall create, discontinue and/or combine departments and committees, except those defined in Standing Rules, and the Finance and Nominating Committees, arranging them to conform with those of the General Federation. She shall appoint chairmen of all departments and chairmen of all committees subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall be an ex-officio member of all departments and committees, except the Nominating Committee.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the word "departments" and insert "community service programs"

If amended would read:

She shall create, discontinue and/or combine *community service programs* and committees, except those defined in Standing Rules, and the Finance and Nominating Committees, arranging them to conform to those of the General Federation. She shall appoint chairmen of all *community service programs* and chairmen of all committees subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall be an ex-officio member of all *community service programs* and committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Rationale: To update and comply with GFWC bylaws

### **Article V-Section C number 2a**

**Current:**

a. At the State Convention of the odd number year, the First Vice President is automatically the President-Elect of the State Federation. She shall appoint department coordinators and program and standing committee chairmen and a parliamentarian for her administration.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the second sentence and insert: "She shall appoint *community service program chairmen*, standing committee chairmen, *standing committee members*, and a parliamentary *advisor* for her administration."

If amended would read:

a. At the State Convention of the odd number year, the First Vice President is automatically the President-Elect of the State Federation. She shall appoint *community service program chairmen*, standing committee chairmen, *standing committee members*, and a parliamentary *advisor* for her administration.

Rationale: to update and the term parliamentary advisor provides flexibility

### **Article V Section C number 5**

**Current:**

5. The Second Vice President shall serve as the Dean of Departments providing the leadership for Programs and Projects and Annual Reporting.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the word "Departments and insert "Community Service Programs"

If amended would read:

5. The Second Vice President shall serve as the Dean of *Community Service Programs*.

Rationale: to update

### **Article V Section C Number 7**

**Current:**

The accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year, by a CPA. The audit report shall be available to the membership, upon request.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the word "audited" and insert "reviewed" in the first sentence. Strike the words "audit report" and insert "CPA review" in the second sentence.

If amended would read:

The accounts of the Treasurer shall be *reviewed* at the end of each fiscal year by a CPA. The *CPA review* shall be available to the membership upon request.

Rationale: The word audit means a specific professional process, more detailed and costly than needed.

### **Article VI Section B**

**Current:**

Section B. It shall approve all appointments, govern investments, appoint an auditor, and transact the business of the State Federation

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the words "an auditor" and insert "a CPA"

If amended would read:

Section B. It shall approve all appointments, govern investments, appoint *a CPA*, and transact the business of the State Federation

Rationale: The word audit means a specific professional process.

### **Article VII Section B**

**Current:**

Section B. The invested funds of the State Federation shall be held in one corporate title known as The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

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administered by the Finance Committee, and held and deposited in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such invested funds may be jointly administered but shall be apportioned on the books of the State Federation in the following categories: Memorial Scholarships and Dorothy E. Schoelzel Scholarship Funds, Foundation Fund and Endowment Fund.

Such jointly administered funds shall be apportioned on the basis of the contributions that have been or may be made to each.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Delete the last sentence "Such jointly administered funds shall be apportioned on the basis of the contributions that have been or may be made to each."

If amended would read:

Section B. The invested funds of the State Federation shall be held in one corporate title known as The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. administered by the Finance Committee, and held and deposited in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such invested funds may be jointly administered but shall be apportioned on the books of the State Federation in the following categories: Memorial Scholarships and Dorothy E. Schoelzel Scholarship Funds, Foundation Fund and Endowment Fund.

Rationale: to update

### Article VII Section C, second sentence

**Current:**

The auditor's report will be acted upon at the Executive Board meeting prior to the Fall Conference and will be presented to the general membership at the Fall Conference.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the words "auditor's report" and insert "CPA review"

If amended would read:

The *CPA review* will be acted upon at the Executive Board meeting prior to the Fall Conference and will be presented to the general membership at the Fall Conference.

Rationale: to update

### Article VIII Section A

**Current:**

Section A. The Officers, District Directors, Assistant District Directors, Department Chairmen, Program and Standing Committee Chairmen, Past State Presidents and one Club President from each member club shall constitute the Executive Board.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike "Department chairmen," and insert "Community Service"

Insert "and standing committee members" after Standing Committee Chairmen

If amended would read:

Section A. The Officers, District Directors, Assistant District Directors, *Community Service Program* and Standing Committee Chairmen, *Standing Committee Members*, Past State Presidents and one Club President from each member club shall constitute the Executive Board.

Rationale: to update

### Article VIII Section A Number 2

**Current:**

2. All officers are elected by entire membership by delegate vote. Chairmen of departments and chairmen of programs and standing committees are appointed by the President-Elect.

**Proposed amendment:**

Strike the sentence "Chairmen of departments and chairmen of programs and standing committees are appointed by the President-Elect" and insert "Chairmen of community service programs and standing committees are appointed by the President-elect."

If amended would read:

2. All officers are elected by entire membership by delegate vote. *Chairmen of community service programs and standing committees are appointed by the President-elect.*

Rationale: to update

### Article IX Standing Committees

**Current:**

**Standing Committees**

**A. Bylaws**

**B. Nominating**

**C. Finance**

Section A.

1. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of a chairman and four members appointed by the President.
2. The Chairman shall submit proposed amendments to the Executive Committee at the March meeting.
3. The Bylaws Committee shall have the responsibility to review and/or consolidate similar proposed amendments into proper wording before presentation.
4. It shall make certain beforehand the amendment is not in conflict with other Bylaw provisions. (Saving much time in debate at the Convention.)

Section B. Nominating Committee:

Refer to Article V, Section D.

Section C. Finance Committee:

Refer to Article VII, Section A.

**Proposed amendment:**

Add:

Section D Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee shall consist of a chairman and 6 members, appointed by the President.

Section E Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee shall consist of a chairman and 4 members, appointed by the President.

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If amended would read:

**Standing Committees**

**A. Bylaws**

**B. Nominating**

**C. Finance**

**D. Public Relations**

**E. Resolutions**

Section A.

1. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of a chairman and four members appointed by the President.
2. The Chairman shall submit proposed amendments to the Executive Committee at the March meeting.
3. The Bylaws Committee shall have the responsibility to review and/or consolidate similar proposed amendments into proper wording before presentation.
4. It shall make certain beforehand the amendment is not in conflict with other Bylaw provisions. (Saving much time in debate at the Convention.)

Section B. Nominating Committee:

Refer to Article V, Section D.

Section C. Finance Committee:

Refer to Article VII, Section A.

Section D Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee shall consist of a chairman and 6 members, appointed by the President.

Section E Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee shall consist of a chairman and 4 members, appointed by the President.

Rationale: The membership has already voted that the Public Relations Committee be a standing committee. The Executive committee recommends that the Resolution Committee be a standing committee.

Article X Heading and Section A

**Current:**

**ARTICLE X**

**Departments, Programs, Committees**

Section A. Departments plan and promote activities and projects which are designed to carry out the aims and projects of the State Federation, with the approval of the President. Programs are separate units of the Departments.

1. Duties. The Department Chairman shall conduct the work of the Department in accordance with a plan which shall be approved by the President, and shall report at each meeting of the Executive Board. The Chairmen of the Programs shall conduct the work of the Programs as directed by the Department Chairman.

**Proposed amendment:**

In heading, strike "Departments," and insert "Community Service"

Strike all references to "departments" and insert "Community Service Program"

Delete the sentences: "Programs are separate units of the Departments" and "The Chairmen of the Programs shall conduct the work of the Programs as directed by the Department Chairman."

If amended would read:

**Community Service Programs, Committees**

Section A. *Community Service Programs* plan and promote activities and projects which are designed to carry out the aims and projects of the State Federation, with the approval of the President.

1. Duties. The Community Service Program Chairman shall conduct the work of the Community Service Programs in accordance with a plan which shall be approved by the President, and shall report at each meeting of the Executive Board.

Rationale: to update

Article XII Amendments

**Current:**

Section A. These Bylaws may be amended at the State Convention by a two-thirds vote of the duly accredited representatives of member clubs present and voting, provided the proposed amendments have been received by the Bylaws Committee by November 15, appended to the Call and mailed six weeks in advance of the meeting.

Section B. Recommendation for amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, the Bylaws Committee, or by any member club in good standing. Recommendations shall be submitted, in writing, to the Bylaws Committee for their consideration.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Strike Section A and insert a new Section A to read

These Bylaws may be amended at the State Convention or the odd-numbered year Fall Conference by a two-thirds vote of the duly accredited representatives of member clubs present and voting, provided the proposed amendments have been received by the Bylaws committee by December 15 for the State Convention and/or April 15 for the odd-numbered year Fall Conference.

If amended would read:

Section A: *These Bylaws may be amended at the State Convention or the odd-numbered year Fall Conference by a two-thirds vote of the duly accredited representatives of member clubs present and voting, provided the proposed amendments have been received by the Bylaws committee by December 15 for the State Convention and/or April 15 for the odd-numbered year Fall Conference.*

Rationale: To permit twice a year action on Bylaws if necessary or advisable.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Section B

Strike the words *the Bylaws* and insert *Standing* in the first line

If amended would read:

Section B. Recommendation for amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, *Standing Committees*, or by any member club in good standing. Recommendations shall be submitted, in writing, to the Bylaws Committee for their consideration.

Rationale: to clarify and expand

**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**  
**2011 STATE CONVENTION**  
**PROPOSED RESOLUTION: CYBER BULLYING**

**WHEREAS**, cyber bullying affects many adolescents and teens, causing untold stress and, in some cases, suicide; and  
**WHEREAS**, the psychological and emotional outcomes of cyber bullying are similar to face to face bullying, cyber bullying can occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with no escape. Cyber bullying is often anonymous and encompasses both internet and cell phone usage; and

**WHEREAS**, Connecticut state law does not currently address cyber bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, laws in only 6 states (including Arkansas, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Oregon and proposed in Michigan and Nebraska) do address cyber bullying, therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the Connecticut state legislature be requested to amend Chapter 170 Sections 10-222d, 10-222g, and 10-222h of the Connecticut General Statutes to 1) require school anti-bullying programs to specifically address cyber bullying and 2) allow local and state police forces to intervene once cyber bullying is reported; and

**RESOLVED**, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. encourage the Governor of the state of Connecticut to support legislative action with respect to cyber bullying; and

**RESOLVED**, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. urge its members to contact their state senators and representatives and encourage them to amend Chapter 170 of Connecticut General Statutes to include cyber bullying; and

**RESOLVED**, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. encourage the Governor of the state of Connecticut to assist school districts in acquiring the necessary resources to train personnel and to implement cyber bullying programs; and

**RESOLVED**, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. urge its members to support local existing bullying prevention task forces or to assist in creating such local task forces.

*This proposed resolution is a collaborative effort of the GFWC/CT Resolutions Committee and the Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC, Inc. Contact: Helen Barakauskas, Chairman, GFWC/CT Resolutions Committee*

**State Project -CT Food Bank/Foodshare**  
**Patty Meglio, Chairman**

We have received tremendous response from clubs wishing to help collect food and money for their local food pantries and the CT Food Bank and Foodshare. Many of you have stepped up to the plate and answered the call for volunteers at the warehouses and in the communities. I encourage you all to keep up the good work and to help whenever you can.

The Walk Against Hunger is fast approaching. Consider getting a group together of club members, friends, and family. Show your enthusiasm and proudly display your club banners as you march for this important cause. The CT Food Bank's Walk Against Hunger includes three dates:

- Sunday, May 1 - 35th Annual Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger, College Woods Pavilion at East Rock Park
- Sunday, May 15 - 2nd Annual Greater Bridgeport Walk Against Hunger, Seaside Park
- May 22 - 6th Annual Greater Waterbury Walk Against Hunger, Sunday, Library Park in downtown Waterbury.



All three walks kick off at 2 p.m. rain or shine, and range 2.5 to 3 miles in length.

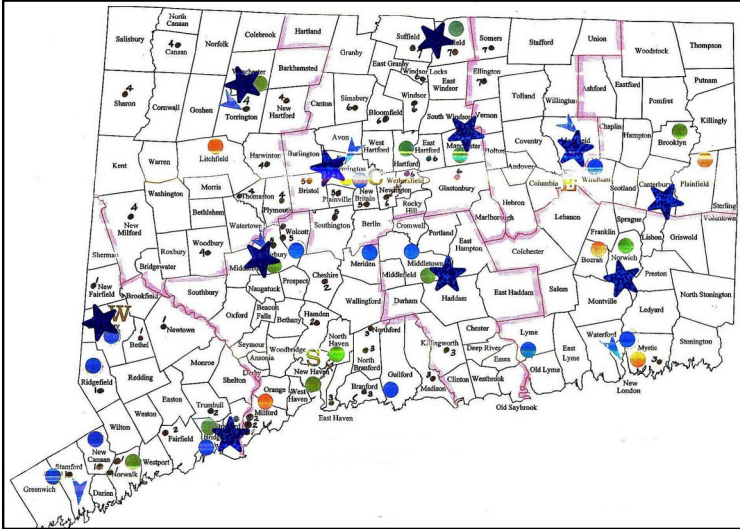
Each person must register online. Form a team for your group and encourage them to register. Go to the CT Food Bank Website to register: <http://ctfoodbank.blueskycollaborative.com/cfb/default.asp>

Foodshare's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Against Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 1.

The walk will start at the plaza of The Hartford Financial Services Group at 690 Asylum Avenue, Hartford. There will be plenty of free parking on-site. Event check-in begins at 1:00 p.m. and the Walk steps off promptly at 2:00 p.m. For more information and to register, go to: [http://site.foodshare.org/site/TR/Events/WalkAgainstHunger?fr\\_id=1160&pg=entry](http://site.foodshare.org/site/TR/Events/WalkAgainstHunger?fr_id=1160&pg=entry)

## Vets Oasis Gloria Hutchinson and Kathy Aiello

It is a delight to report that in less than 2-1/2 years we, the GFWC of CT, have placed eleven blue stars on our Connecticut map. Each star depicts locations on



public College Campuses, where we opened:

- Asnuntuck Vets OASIS in Enfield - April 2009
- Naugatuck Valley Vets OASIS in Waterbury - May 2009
- Quinebaug Valley Vets OASIS in Danielson – May 2009
- Tunxis Vets OASIS in Farmington -- September 2009
- Northwestern Vets OASIS in Winsted -- October 2009
- WestConn Vets OASIS in Danbury -- November 2009
- Manchester Vets OASIS in Manchester – January 2010
- Housatonic Vets OASIS in Bridgeport -- October 2010
- Middlesex Vets OASIS in Middletown -- November 2010

Currently being completed are plans to open Vets OASIS on Campuses of Three Rivers Community College in Norwich on April 13, 2011 and University of Connecticut, Veterans House in Storrs in late June, 2011.

During this time, we have received an appreciation plaque from Manchester Community College and a certificate from Middlesex Community College. We were presented a \$500 award for Community Improvement Program at the GFWC 2010 International Conference. These accolades recognize the accomplishments of GFWC of Connecticut. We are becoming known as the Connecticut Women’s Organization who is gratefully thanking our Veterans for their Military Service and helping to transition them into Community life.

On April 9, 2011, the women’s clubs of District 4 will feature a Northwestern Vets OASIS female veteran as a guest in their District Day Program “We can make a Difference”. Each of our seven Districts has participat-

ed in raising funds by “Flags on the Green” to donate and furnish a Vets OASIS on eleven CT campuses. The veterans are happy to find that we, women of the community, have chosen to express our appreciation for their military service. Members of the women’s clubs, many of whom have family members currently in the services, are pleased to collaborate with our CT Community Colleges/State Universities to do so. Yes, we have made a difference in our State. Do enjoy your celebrity, ladies, for you definitely earned it.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by email at [GDePH@aol.com](mailto:GDePH@aol.com).

### GFWC/CT Membership Update

#### Rules for the Membership Update Form

Please list all new or transferred members who have joined your club since filing the last update form.

- Circle “N” if she is new or has rejoined after one year.
- Circle “T” if she is a transfer from another club.
- List the name of the member who referred her to the club.
- Remit \$17 dues per member, payable to GFWC/CT.
- Send this form to the Assistant Treasurer:  
Georgeann Kishner  
107 Logging Trail Road  
Danbury, CT 06811

Phone: 203-748-5445 Email: [gkishner@comcast.net](mailto:gkishner@comcast.net)

#### **Be Legible Please!**

Club Name _____
Person Filing Update _____
Telephone # _____
Email _____
N - T
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Email _____
Phone _____
Referred by _____

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**New England Region Conference 2011**  
**Patti Kwashnak & Peg Runde Co-Chairmen**

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September 23 -25, 2011 - Hilton Hotel – Mystic, CT

Don't miss the Mystical Meeting planned for you and our guests from the other New England States and GFWC Headquarters. If you haven't done so already, put the date on your calendar, plan your trip on MapQuest, and reserve your room through the GFWC/CT website.

You will be welcomed to the "castle" by our wizardly hostesses and offered a welcome bag with many items that are being donated. For your pre-dinner enjoyment on Friday, you may be mystified by magicians, tarot card readers, palm readers and more. After dinner, the possibility exists for you to be hypnotized by well-known hypnotist, Dan LaRosa. Saturday and Sunday's programs will also be exciting – but only so much information to share as mysticism is fun. Also, centerpieces and table favors are being prepared especially for you, our special guests.

The Marketplace will be open all day Friday and Saturday and is rapidly filling with a variety of vendors. Being adjacent to Olde Mystic Village, the Mystic Aquarium and the nearby Mystic Seaport makes this a mystical location.

Please take time to visit the NERC table at all the State meetings and District Days. NERC is raffling a quilt, being made by Barbara Feinstein, and tickets are available for a 'CASH' raffle. There are always extra perks, such as having coffee provided in the morning that can be added with a little extra funding. These raffles will help us to do so.

**Plainville Woman's Club**

Spring! A time to celebrate the return of the warm weather, an escape from cabin fever, and a chance to renew old friendships by gathering together for something special. So mark your calendars and plan to join The GFWC/Woman's Club of Plainville, Inc. which will be holding its Annual Tea Fundraiser with entertainment by "The Plaids" on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. It will be held at the Faith Bible Church, 168 Unionville Avenue at Northwest Drive, and Rte. 177 in Plainville, CT. The price per person is \$15.00.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of tea, finger sandwiches and cookies while you immerse yourself in the camaraderie of other women. There will also be a raffle prize table for you to try your luck. So bring your family and friends and have a cup of tea on us.

For more information or to purchase your tickets, please contact Cathy Steele at 860-747-1959. All proceeds from this event help to fund our community projects. Thank you so much for your support.

**Branford Woman's Club**

The Branford Woman's Club will be holding their 21st Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Anyone interested in entering may call Helen Laird 203-488-1836 for an application. All are welcome.

**Newtown Woman's Club**

Clear the Clutter...A Tailgate Tag Sale

Time: Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Newtown Middle School Parking Lot

Deadline for early bird reservations is March 26, 2011. \$25 reserves one (1) parking space, larger SUV's/vans/trucks will need to reserve two (2) spaces. If space is available the day of the tag sale, the cost will be \$35 cash for one (1) space. Participants will be responsible for bringing and setting up a table behind their parked vehicle. All unsold items MUST be removed at end of the sale. All proceeds go to the philanthropic committee to continue to support scholarships, police, fire, food pantries and other service agencies that give service to residents.

Send your check payable to the Newtown Woman's Club GFWC, Inc., P.O. Box 101, Newtown, CT 06470. You must include your telephone number, make of vehicle and license plate number. Your canceled check will be your confirmation. Event is a "first come, first serve" basis. Questions: contact Anna Wiedemann at 203-426-1035 or Jo Ann Bruno at 203-445-4599

Due to all the convention news in this issue, we were unable to include all the club news articles submitted. They will be in a special issue of Constant Contact. Betty and Hermy

**2011 Federation Calendar**

March 18-20.. High School Art Contest  
Alzheimer’s Resource Center  
Plantsville, CT  
April 2 ..... District 7 Day  
April 7 ..... District 3 Day  
April 9 ..... District 4 Day  
April 12 ..... District 1 Day  
April 14 ..... District 2 Day  
April 16 ..... District 6 Day  
April 20 ..... District 5 Day  
April 24 ..... GFWC Federation Day  
May 13-14 ..... GFWC/CT Annual Convention  
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell  
June 16-20 ..... GFWC 120th International  
Convention, Milwaukee, WI

clubs have wanted to have a fun field trip to see the space and many of the elements of the Mural that are already completed. The dates are:

- Thursday, May 12 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Thursday, June 16 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please [contact me](#) and let me know which date you plan on attending (860-364-0477).  
Judy Albright, GFWC/CT Arts Partnership Chair

**Next Focus Deadline - June 1, 2011**

Please submit photos as attachments in jpg format, and articles in either (.doc format) or (.txt format). If you have a Mac, please convert your file to a PC format.

Contact Betty Kopiec  
Email: [bkopiec@snet.net](mailto:bkopiec@snet.net)  
Address: 8 Doris St. Unionville, CT 06085  
Telephone: (860) 673-4775

Editors: Betty Kopiec and Hermy Bittel



**American Mural Project**

I have just received word of Open Mill Dates to visit the American Mural Project. I know many

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General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.  
c/o Betty Kopiec, Co-Editor Focus  
8 Doris Street  
Unionville, CT 06085