

## GFWC and GFWC Florida Overview



### I. GFWC – Founded 1890 – Jane Cunningham Croley

“Founded in 1890, GFWC’s roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croley, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croley was denied admittance based upon her gender, and in response, formed a woman’s club—Soros. **a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."**

In celebration of Soros’ 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 1889, Jane Croley invited women’s clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of federation by attending a convention in New York City. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs officially formed the General Federation of Women’s Clubs by ratifying the GFWC constitution.

Since 1890, **GFWC’s impact** has been felt throughout communities across the United States and the globe.”

In 1922, GFWC purchased the house located at:

\*\*\*1734 N Street NW, Washington DC (Dupont Circle area)

### II. GFWC Florida – Founded 1895 when visionary leaders at VIA Federated WC of Green Cove Springs brought 5 clubs together to form Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs:

1. VIA Federated WC of Green Cove Springs
2. VIA Orange City WC
3. Fairfield of Jacksonville
4. Crescent City WC
5. Woman’s Club of Tarpon Springs

\*\*\*Headquarters: 4444 Florida National Drive, Lakeland FL

### III. GFWC is divided into 8 Regions – We are in Southern Region

Alabama  
Florida  
Georgia  
Mississippi  
South Carolina  
Aruba

### IV. Florida is divided into 14 Districts

District 1 – Panhandle out toward Pensacola  
District 2 – Panama City, Wewahitchka area  
District 3 – Tallahassee area  
District 4 – Jacksonville area/Northeast Florida  
District 5 – Gainesville area

District 6 – Cape Canaveral/Melbourne area  
District 7 – Orlando area  
District 8 – Tampa area  
District 9 – Lakeland area  
District 10 – Sebastian down to West Palm Beach area  
District 11 – Key West, very south Florida – Miami, Coconut Grove, Coco Plum, Homestead  
District 12 – Naples and southwest Florida  
District 13 – Ft. Lauderdale, Davie – south of West Palm  
District 14 – Tarpon Springs/St. Petersburg/Clearwater

V. GFWC has 8 Executive Committee members

President  
President-elect  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Treasurer  
Director of Jr. Clubs  
Parliamentarian is appointed – not an officer and has no vote

VI. GFWC Florida has 11 Executive Committee Members

President – CEO, the buck stops with her  
President-elect – in charge of DD's, script & schedule for ADM  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dean of Chairmen, Reporting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership Chairman  
Recording Secretary – All EC minutes, Board minutes  
Corresponding Secretary (appointed) – Call, Program, Manual  
Treasurer – Financial oversight  
Finance Officer (appointed) - Budget, Vendors  
Director of Jr. Clubs – All things related to Juniors  
Member-at-Large (NOT an officer but has a vote) – Liaison between members and EC  
Parliamentarian is appointed – not an officer and has no vote

And we are also honored to have 8 officers on the Junior Executive Committee and three officers on the Juniorette Executive Committee

As an aside, District Directors & Junior Directors are also officers – Elected by clubs

VII. GFWC Florida

President's Project  
“Smiles Across the Miles” Operation Smile

Director of Junior Club's Project  
"Book Heroes" Literacy Program

- VIII. GFWC – Signature Program  
Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention  
Juniors' Special Program – Advocates for Children
- IX. 6 Community Service Programs  
Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, Public Issues
- 6 Advancement Areas  
Communication, Identity & Public Relations  
Fundraising & Development  
Leadership  
Legislation & Public Policy  
Membership  
Women's History & Resource Center
- X. GFWC – Club Manual on Website with information on all – [www.gfwc.org/club manual](http://www.gfwc.org/clubmanual)
- XI. GFWC Florida website – [www.gfwcflorida.com](http://www.gfwcflorida.com) – Bulletins on the previous mentioned CSPs, etc.
- XII. GFWC Florida Chairmen use this information and work with the GFWC Chairmen to provide ideas and information thru their Bulletins to Clubs and Members of GFWC Florida.
- XIII. You may decide to try a project in your community that you have read about through a GFWC/GFWC Florida Bulletin and it might be the same thing that another club is using somewhere else – either in Naples or in Anchorage, Alaska.
- XIV. GFWC is a "Grass Roots" organization working together to improve our communities and the world. We are united through our membership in our local clubs – with your membership in a club, you are a member of GFWC Florida and also a member of GFWC. We are under one umbrella in our efforts to improve the world, one step at a time with GFWC sister clubs across the country. You should feel excited and proud – I know I am – to be part of such a large organization and to be able to say that by your efforts, you too can make a difference in the world.
- XV. GFWC Motto  
"Unity in Diversity"  
"Living the Volunteer Spirit"