



## **GFWC of Arkansas Federation Speaks**



® The Official Publication of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Arkansas  
Spring 2022

Message from State President Connie Cloinger

Dear Members of GFWC of Arkansas,

It has been a very interesting, challenging, and different two years as I attempted to serve our organization as your President. No one can see the future. And aren't we glad. Never in a million years would I have expected to experience a global wide pandemic, nor to learn how to navigate through the world of technology, learning how with very little hands-on assistance. But by the Grace of God, Members Patience, Loving Friends and Many hours of trial & error; we have endured and are coming close to the end of my administration.

It has been a privilege to get to know many of you by actually talking to you on the phone, reading emails, seeing your posts on Facebook, and meeting through Zoom. I had planned to visit in person as many clubs and districts as possible, even updating my car with GPS technology so Katrina and I would not get lost. In our family it has become a joke that you haven't taken a trip till you get lost. This dates back to my honeymoon. Will started out to go to Paragould but we wound up in Piggott.

The old saying of "You can make a plan but God will probably laugh at it" certainly played out, However, giving credit to all of you Members; the State of Arkansas endured with flying colors. The reports given and awards to be received at the Spring Convention will prove the power of dedicated women volunteers committed to loving, serving and helping everyone they can where they live. You were asked to "Let Your Light through GFWC of AR". Shining on many occasions you did not hide your lights under a basket (bushel) but spread it out for the Glory of the Lord. Matthew 5: 15-16.

Changes are hard no one denies that, in order to grow and become fruitful change must occur. Seeds cannot sprout if they do not get buried in the ground and change in order to be a plant. Organizations have traditions which need to be preserved, but also must be willing to change in order to grow and be productive. No one knows the future but you cannot hold it back. Thank you for embracing some of the seemingly drastic changes we were asked to make during the last two years. You have made me a stronger, more confident person and I intend to continue to serve, volunteer and be actively involved in club work at any level that asks me. Thank you for allowing me to serve and allowing me to pursue changes when I saw a need or problem.

Connie Cloinger  
GFWC-AR State President

Our State has the great fortune this year of celebrating two very important birthdays,

**GFWC Blytheville Woman's Club** was Federated September 1st, 1922      **100 years**  
**GFWC Amici Club of Stuttgart** was Federated June 24, 1947      **75 years**

**OFFICIAL CALL TO GFWC AR**

**STATE CONVENTION**

**MAY 13-14-15, 222**

DELTA HOTEL by Marriott

201 South Shackleford

Little Rock AR 72211

501-223-3000

**This is a tentative schedule subject to change**

**Friday May 13**

2:30 pm Budget and Finance followed by Board of Directors

6:00 pm Dinner with Mary Beth Williams, GFWC International Treasurer and Executive Committee

**Saturday May 14**

10:00 am Business Meeting

11:30 am Lunch

12:00 pm Guest Speaker

3:30 pm Recess

5:30 pm Dinner

6:45 pm Installation of New Officers

7:30 pm Reception

**Sunday May 15**

9:00 am Retiring and New Administration Meeting

- All State Chairman and Club Presidents in fact anyone making a report:  
Please have a **hard paper copy** of your report to hand to the Secretary for her records.
- Books from our Guest Speaker and our Entertainment will be available for purchasing.
- Additional request: Please bring children books (Spanish or English) for our donation to PATH. They will accept anything for victims' use at this time. Examples: Hygiene items, socks, underwear, educational supplies for any size or age. FYI those who live close to Little Rock may be interested to know they are accepting donations for a resale shop. Located in North Little Rock at 41 Collins Industrial Place across from the mall in Maumelle.

## Meet Your Candidates

Presenting the Nominees for the GFWC of Arkansas State Officers for 2022-2024

The current **President-Elect Jane Jackson will automatically become the President** and will not be voted on. Jane Jackson is well qualified for this post having served as a State Officer of GFWC of AR as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and Club President of GFWC Amici Club. Before joining our esteemed organization Jane was actively serving in the Business and Professional Women's Club. Jane is currently volunteering with the Museum of Grand Prairie Arts Center in Stuttgart on the Board of Directors. She and her husband Bill live in Stuttgart.

### President-Elect Nominee

I am **Vickie Davis** from Van Buren, AR. Originally, an Okie, we have lived here the last 39 years. My husband Terry, is a chemical technician, we have one son and 4 dogs which include 2 schnauzers, a shiatzu and a Corgi. For the last 25 years I have worked for the Van Buren School District and the last 20 years for Sagely and Edwards Realtors too. Some of my earlier jobs in life have been church pianist, substitute teacher, and secretary for a county agency. I have been a member of GFWC Women's League of Van Buren since August of 2011 and have had the privilege to serve as a Committee Chairman a few times, Secretary, Treasurer, President, District President, State Secretary, and State Vice-president. I also serve on the Historic District Commission for the City of Van Buren, Friends of Fairview Cemetery, River Valley Museum Board, Friends of the Van Buren Library Board, Friends of the Crawford County Library System and a member of The Going Snake Historical Association. Meeting new friends and helping to make a difference are the best reasons for volunteering. Friendships aren't a big thing, it's a million little things that make them precious.

### Vice Presidential Candidate

A little about myself, **Robyn Stayton** . . . I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, a beautiful but cold and snowy state. Is it any wonder that in 1977 I moved to Arkansas, beautiful and much warmer? I attended Northern Michigan University and St. Luke's School of Nursing. I decided that nursing wasn't my thing and later attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, majoring in accounting. I worked for many years as a retail manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and later in banking and finance. Nope, that wasn't me either. I finally settled in law enforcement and retired from the White Hall Police Department. My years there were spent working the streets and in the schools as a School Resource Officer. In 2008 I moved from White Hall to Stuttgart where I became a member of GFWC Woman's Club. Currently I reside in North Little Rock and attend St. Luke's Episcopal Church where I serve on the Vestry as well as several outreach ministries. I have four children and five grandchildren, all residing in this great state from Jonesboro to Texarkana, White Hall to North Little Rock. Lucky me, I get to spend plenty of time with all of them. GFWC of Arkansas has been a great "home" for me. So many opportunities to get involved in issues near and dear to my heart. Currently I remain a member of Stuttgart Woman's Club and I am a new member of North Little Rock Woman's Club. Ladies, you are my family. I have served on several committees for the state as well as the Southwest District President. Most recently I served as Chairman for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (whew, that may or may not get me a gold star!) I have had the opportunity to attend several International and Regional Conventions and I am a LEADS graduate. I look forward to continuing my service with this wonderful organization. Thank you for this opportunity to run for Vice President and most of all a heartfelt thank you to each one of you for your service.

### **Secretary Candidate**

Hello, I am **Judy Ramer**. I have been a member for 18 years total (having a break in time). Served as local secretary, Vice President, and President; District Director. Attended 2021 Atlanta convention. Volunteer at Clinton Presidential Center, local food pantry and senior citizen center. Currently serving as President NLR Women's Club, President of MU Master Beta Sigma Phi, Treasurer of Greater Little Rock Council of Beta Sigma Phi, Vice President Greater Little Rock Federation Women's Club. She lives in Little Rock.

### **Treasurer Candidate**

Greetings to all. I am **Debbie Hall** and I have been the GFWC-AR Treasurer or the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee for the last 8 years. I have held the position of State Treasurer, State First Vice President, and State President. I have also been the Credential Chairman for many years. Besides working with numbers, I have always loved doing credentials because I like to say hello to everyone as they show up for a meeting. I have been a member of the GFWC Junior Civic League of Fort Smith since 1984. At the club level, I have been all the officers and have served on almost all of our committees. At the District Level, I have been Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President. Visiting all the District Meetings was the best part of being the State President. Credentials and Election Committees have been my home at the International GFWC Level. My life will be changing very soon. I am retiring after 21 years of working at Southside High School. I look forward to playing more bridge and tennis and visiting all my grandchildren when I want to. Thank you to all my GFWC Friends. You have all been such a great part of my life. Joining the Junior Civic League was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Representative Officer will be nominated at the May Convention.

### **Let the Good Times Roll in New Orleans**

The GFWC International Convention will be in New Orleans, LA this June 24 -29, 2022. Changes have been made that affect us. The State night opening Dinner for the Convention has become Region night. The Southcentral Region (AR, AZ, NM, LA, TX & OK) are the host states. Arkansas is the planning committee and host for this event. I greatly encourage you to attend this meeting and volunteer at this dinner. Forms have been sent to Club Presidents and Chairmen. If you need a form please ask, they will be readily available. The convention call and registration is on the GFWC Member Portal already. Rooms and convention are at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Our Mary Ann Arnold is in charge of the Fundraising Committee for this event.

### **South Central Regional Convention**

The SCR Convention is also being hosted by Arkansas in October 2022 in Little Rock, AR. More information will be announced at a later date.

# 125<sup>th</sup> GFWC of Arkansas Spring Convention Registration Form

May 13,14,15 2022  
Delta Hotel by Marriott  
Little Rock West  
201 S Shackleford Road  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
501-223-3000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club and City \_\_\_\_\_

First Name on Tag \_\_\_\_\_

Room rates are \$106 for GFWC Members **before April 22, 2022**  
Call 501-223-3000 Mention General Federation of Women's Clubs

Registration is	\$12	
Friday Dinner with Mary Beth Williams GFWC Treasurer & Executive Committee	HPPS Restaurant  Dutch Treat	
Saturday Lunch	Fiesta Chicken Wrap \$ 25	
Saturday Dinner	Boursin Stuffed Chicken \$40	
Late registration After May 5  After May 6 meals are not guaranteed	\$15	
Breakfast on your own	TOTAL DUE	

**Mail form and Check to Debbie Hall**  
**5701 Free Ferry Road #33**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72903**

FYI Parking is Free

For more information:  
479-459-5793 [debbiehall@cox.net](mailto:debbiehall@cox.net)

Food Allergies or Special diet request \_\_\_\_\_

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