



GFWC MAINE PINE TREE NOTES



GFWC MAINE 2024-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Front row: *Gloria Aurelio, Vice-President; Suzanne Raymond, President; Nancy Ames, President-Elect;* Back row: *Gloria Leveillee, Parliamentarian; Anne Newman, Recording Secretary; Jen Mabee, Corresponding Secretary.*

Sept/Oct 2024



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GFWC MAINE

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings to all of you!

This is such an exciting time as we venture into the next two years. I can assure you this officer has hit the ground running since she was installed as GFWC Maine President in the middle of May. I had a delightful time at GFWC Convention in Chicago – representing Maine as President-elect. For those who may not be aware, the magical moment for the new administration begins during the installation of the new GFWC officers, held on the final day of the convention. It is a remarkable couple of days celebrating one administration and then it segues quite nicely into the next. It was a fantastic time in Chicago with women from all over the country and some international members as well. . . great meetings, speakers, workshops, entertainment and food! At our upcoming fall conference, GFWC Immediate Past President Maureen will be sharing about convention and also announce some awards that GFWC Maine received!

Typically, at convention during the installation year, the state presidents (and all other groups and committees of the new administration) stay an extra day to have meetings in the morning and then a full Board of Directors in the afternoon. This year it was done differently in that we did not stay the extra day. Several weeks later I attended the State Presidents meeting held via Zoom, with GFWC First Vice President Jolie Frankfurth presiding. Then about a week after that GFWC International President Suellen Brazil conducted the first Board meeting via Zoom as well.

On July 24th our GFWC Maine Board of Directors met and it was a productive time together as we began this next two years together. This is a combined group of our state officers, past state presidents, club presidents, district presidents, community service program chairmen, and standing and special committee chairmen. The audit committee and finance committee were there to work as well. I was impressed by all our engaging presenters who shared information to help us all move forward with confidence. I was so pleased that eleven of our sixteen clubs were represented by their club president. We are off to a great start.

Moving forward, plans are underway as preparations are being made for our fall conference being held in Waterville at the Best Western on Wednesday, October 23rd. I hope to see many of you there. The Call to the meeting is included in this edition of Pine Tree Notes.

By the time this article goes to print, I hope that this next experience is well behind me. I heard recently from four members that they received a very strange email from me. First of all, it was **NOT** from me, but I raise the issue here just as a reminder that we all need to be remain alert to the scammers and hackers. I am happy to say none of these ladies were fooled! I asked one of the members to forward the email she received to me so I could see exactly how it was presented. The scammers are getting more cunning every day and the tip off that it was not from me was this: it was not sent from my email address but from an imposter's email. It had my name listed as the sender, so it looked like it was from me, but because it was not my actual email address that was used, that indicated it was a scam. Never open them! Anyway, thankfully, no one was duped and no money was lost in this attempted scam. Keep your guard up!

I am looking forward to visiting with clubs on your own home turf. That is always a pleasure. This past week I had a delightful time with the Lubec Woman's Club and certainly enjoyed a special meal as they were celebrating their successful "Whale of a Sale" yard sale! I am eager to visit all our clubs during these two years. These are some of the most special times for a state president. . .getting to know you! Just give me a call or send an email so we can secure a date!

Serving together in federation,

Suzanne Raymond,
GFWC Maine President





GFWC ME State President's Project

This term President Suzanne has chosen St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as her President's Project. She has asked me to serve as chairman, in spite of the meetings I will miss this two years, and I am honored. St. Jude has been a recipient of our family donations for many years. Then after the GFWC Convention in Memphis it rose to the top of the list. We were privileged to have a tour of the facility and learn more about it - and what a wonderful place it is! The walls are brightly colored and covered in art work by the children. There are toys in lots of corners to keep children amused, and red wagons with side rails to transport them around. Bright, colorful and happy - just the place for families to be hopeful about treatment. And, unlike many research facilities that guard and patent theirs, St. Jude freely shares their results with any researcher that can make use of it. No child or family ever receives a bill for travel, accommodations or food, and even later if a recurrence happens, it is all covered. What a wonderful organization to support!

In order for GFWC to receive credit for donations by clubs or clubwomen (or your families), please use the following address:

ALSAC/St. Jude
Exchange Room/Jackie Harris
501 St. Jude Place
Memphis TN 38105

Please note on check memo space: GFWC FOZ0159D023/ZNEOOZ230159.

You will still qualify for the tax deduction, but they will know that this came through for GFWC partnership.

Thank you for your generosity to this worthy cause.

Libby Wiers

GFWC Maine President's Project Chairman 2024-2026



GFWC ME

Signature Program

*Domestic & Sexual Violence
Awareness & Prevention*

Greetings, Clubwomen!

As we all get back into the swing of our fall meetings and routines, I want to begin by thanking GFWC Maine President Suzanne Raymond for entrusting me with the role of Chairman for the GFWC Signature Program. I am honored and will do the program justice, as I myself have experienced sexual violence while serving in the military. Military Sexual Assault is one of the Signature Program's focus areas, and this Chairman would be happy to come speak to clubs about my experience.

As we all know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship was created in 2012 to assist those impacted by intimate partner violence who are pursuing higher education. GFWC has awarded more than \$97,500 in scholarship funds and the program continues to flourish. If your club is interested in supporting the scholarship or referring an individual to apply, here are some important dates to note: October 2024, the scholarship application opens. February 2025, application deadline. May/June 2025, recipients notified.

The goal of the GFWC Signature Program is to increase awareness of and prevent the widespread occurrence of domestic and sexual violence in our communities. I would like to take a moment to highlight "Partners for Peace", a domestic violence organization in Bangor that has provided support, advocacy, and education to people impacted by domestic violence for the past 50 years. They are entirely funded by DHS, MHA and donations made by the public. I have personally known women that have used "Partners for Peace" and I was asked to write a letter a few months ago in support of the program, so that they may continue to be funded. Clubs may choose to support "Partners for Peace", or a similar organization in the State of Maine.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your past support of this very important committee and I look forward to visiting your clubs and working with you to continue to do the great work needed to keep our citizens safe.

Have a wonderful fall!

Harmony Ingraham

GFWC ME Signature Program Chairman



GFWC ME

Libraries and Education

Welcome to ideas for Libraries & Education, CSP.

A comic recently appeared on my Facebook feed about the importance of Libraries.

Libraries are important!

SEE THAT BUILDING THERE?

THAT'S THE LIBRARY ...

IF YOU EVER WANT TO BORROW A BOOK, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO IN THERE AND TELL THEM WHICH ONE YOU WANT, AND THEY'LL LET YOU TAKÉ IT HOME!

FREE?

ABSOLUTELY FREE!

SORT OF MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO!

Schultz

Here are a few possible activities your club may decide to do:

*** Call your town library to ask what way(s) your club could help? My town library orders new books in September so the librarian expressed we could buy any number of books on their list. They then would put a bookplate in them to signify that our GFWC Maine Skowhegan Woman's Club donated it.

*** As winter approaches the library has at the ready gallon size hygiene bags filled with: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, gloves, hat, snack bar, and bottle of water. These are so needed throughout the year and acknowledge someone cares. Maybe your library needs some.

*** Adopt a local classroom at your local school to assist the teacher anyway your group can. It may be: money for books to enhance a room library or books to be given to students at Christmas, help with creating a book nook or any space teacher would like to be cheerier for daily work.

*** Fund a part or all a field trip and then a few members go with the class to learn what trips children are taking in your local area.

As members of GFWC we continue to find ways to "Offering Hope." Until next PTN...

Deb Burnham, GFWC ME Libraries and Education Chairman



GFWC ME Environment

GFWC members recognize the importance of preserving the environment and making life better for generations to come with fresh air and clean water. The GFWC Environment program's emphasis for this administration is similar to that of LLBean, Get OUTSIDE. Support our state and national parks. There are MANY projects that would fit in this category. HEIFER INTERNATIONAL is just one of the many programs GFWC has supported for decades. Supporters of Heifer have made clean water available in many communities by providing funds to drill wells.

HEIFER is a Woman's Empowerment project. Gifts enable families to lift themselves out of poverty and reach a living income. Women led farms are the key to ending hunger through gifts of livestock, wells, and training to control assets and reinvest in their families. Since 1944 over 46 million families have benefitted from HEIFER.

I would encourage each club to include HEIFER INTERNATIONAL in their annual budget. Any and all contributions should be sent to Jane Briggs GFWC Treasurer, 106 Libby Hill Rd. Newport, Maine 04953. Be SURE to note it's a donation to Heifer International.

For further information see me at Fall Conference or visit their website.

Gerry Richardson, GFWC/MFWC Environment Chairman





GFWC ME Membership

As the summer winds down and we once again begin a new administration, under the leadership of our amazing Suzanne Raymond, this Chairman is optimistic in strengthening our membership, with your help, by spreading the word of the benefits of belonging to the most amazing women's volunteer service organization in the world.

It is up to you and me to “educate, engage, empower” and “break barriers” so we “offer hope” in our communities. We, GFWC Maine members, are the shakers and movers in our communities for getting things done. We are a small but mighty group of dedicated volunteers that are always open to adding more women (ducklings) into our “flock.” As it has been said “many hands make for lighter work” or something like that. We definitely are in need of more members to continue the work we do. Let's strive to be vigilant in offering the opportunity of membership to those we may encounter in our daily lives. We never know who may be looking for exactly what your club has to offer them in their own home town. Show your enthusiasm! Let's get “Quacking”.

This Chairman will be sharing information that has been provided to us from GFWC. There is a wealth of information to share that can and will benefit us in gaining new members and just as important; retaining our current members. The GFWC Membership Committee has goals set that Maine members can reach when we put our minds to accomplishing the goals. Reach out with any questions, suggestions or concerns. This Chairman will assist in any way you may need. Let's do this together!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Conference! Our “Leader of the Flock” Suzanne is planning a conference you won't want to miss. It will be a “Duck-Fantastic!” time.

There is no better time than now to begin to plan the strategies we need to increase our GFWC Maine Membership!

GFWC Maine Membership ~ Katherine White, Chairman



GFWC ME Civic Engagement & Outreach

FYI our GFWC Club Manual states, “The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each member is part of a larger society and we are responsible for taking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community - locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. GFWC focuses on addressing issues of public concern.” Volunteering is one of the best ways to put civic duty into action and is often the first step in building a stronger connection to the community.

Briefly, how can we accomplish this? We can become an advocate for a cause of public concern, fundraising, donating and problem solving. Once we have identified an area of concern in our neighborhood, form a committee of people willing to work on a solution, figure out the cause of the issue and develop an action plan, implement the plan. Areas of concern are endless: Citizenship, Crime Prevention, Safety, Disaster preparedness, the Needy, Hungry and Homeless, and Military Personnel and Veterans are just a few suggestions of areas of where your club may decide to take action and participate in a solution.

A major area that any club could work on (and easiest) in the immediate future is GET OUT AND VOTE!! Encourage friends and family members to do the same, help register new voters, offer transportation to the polls, many and simple things that any of us can choose from.

Stay tuned for more ideas about how to get involved with the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program. Hope to see you all at the GFWC Maine Fall Conference.

Sally Manchester - Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman





GFWC Newport Women's Club

The GFWC Newport Woman's Club has had a busy summer. Members donated items for their annual gift basket raffle featured at their booth at Newport's annual Riverwalk Festival August 3rd. More than \$700 worth of scratch cards, restaurant gift cards, gas cards, Visa cards, Walmart cards etc. etc. filled the basket. Club members spent the day "working the grounds" raffle tickets in hand. A very successful fund raiser once again!

Donations are being sought from local merchants and friends to purchase back to school items for the Woman to Child program. Two gallon ZipLock bags are filled and presented to every Kindergarten student on the first day of school.

Several club members gathered to work on Norma's Dolls in August. Dolls that have been collected from thrift stores, garage sales, etc.etc. are being made "new" again. Having been laundered and dried their hair is "restyled", and they are outfitted and ready for a new home. A local craftsman creates wooden cradles for each. The club women created a doll size blanket and pillow for each as their MLK Project. They are distributed locally to less fortunate families. Some perspective new club members were solicited to help with this project.

Gerry Richardson. GFWC Newport Woman's Club Secretary

GFWC Westbrook Women's Club

The committees have been busy this summer planning for the new year. We had lunch in Riverbank Park in July and August to gather socially. On September 3, the Westbrook Woman's Club will gather at DiMillo's restaurant for a social event at the beginning of our year. The members will bring hand towels for children entering foster care. Our first business meeting is September 17.

Vivian Newton, GFWC Westbrook Women's Club President

GFWC Research Club of Limerick

Our April program was Adoption of our China babies presented by Heather Labbe and Sue Cartisano both of which have adopted babies from China. We had pictures , slides memorabilia and learned all about the adoption process. It was topped off with authentic Chinese food. A very lovely evening was enjoyed by all.

May we had a talk "End of Life Lessons The Art of Presence" by Sally Manchester A very informative discussion that we all must think about.

June was our annual dinner outing to Oak Street Bistro. Sally Manchester was our emcee for the evening as we celebrated our Installation of Officers for 2024~2026. Our officers are President Cindy Mullis, Vice President Jen Moran, Secretary Debbie Lovewell and Treasurer Brenda Mead. We held our annual yard sale in June. Always a fun day of socializing.

We don't meet in July or August. We will be kicking off our new year with a potluck dinner at the brand new Limerick Fire Station complete with a private tour of the new station

We will continue our membership drive through these next two years.

Cindy Mullis, GFWC Research Club of Limerick President

GFWC Outlook Club

The GFWC Outlook Club has had a wonderful summer. Our June outing was held at Twitchell Garden Kitchen & Winery, where we had a wonderful meal, wine tasting and Harmony Ingraham was installed as the new President. Our club has been serving the community for 115 years, and we are facing very low membership numbers. After so many years of existence, it would be a travesty for the club to disband due to lack of membership. The goal of our new President is to increase membership and she immediately took action. Harmony created the first ever GFWC Outlook Club Facebook page and email address to increase our online presence. Banners were ordered with the GFWC logo and our club name, and we put a float in the St. Albans Summerfest parade. Outlook Club advertisement cards were handed out to women along the parade route. Our float won third place, and we were awarded a check for \$50! Hooray! A "Prospective Member Information Session" was held at the Hartland library on August 20, and while only three women attended, it was a good start. Our club is looking forward to the future and the possibilities that lie ahead.

Harmony Ingraham, GFWC Outlook Club President

GFWC Skowhegan Women's Club

When life circumstances take over the focus of multiple members of a small club that club must organize their club differently. In May of this year, GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club faced this problem.

Nominations chair told the group at the May meeting the slate of 2024-2026 officers for GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club was empty. She went around the room to ask each member if they were able to hold a position this year and if not share why so all members could determine next steps. One by one each member openly told of their time constraints in life, not wanting to be an officer ever and if they could fill a position or not for the term ahead.

Three members replied no as they were asked and then, two ladies said they would be Treasurer and Secretary respectively. A few more spoke of why they could not serve in an officer role and then one member said yes to helping lead but not solo. The Next member also shared she could help lead. Last person shared she would also be part of the Leadership Team of three sharing President and Vice President roles.

Before the next planning meeting each member of the Leadership Team decided which roles they would be able to accomplish and felt confident in doing. June Hovey, Debra Burnham, & Sue Ellen Lexier are the Leadership Team with Kathy Blinn as Secretary and Wilma (Billie) Sherman as Treasurer.

Three planning meetings were held during the summer to choose ideas for desired topics, speakers, and projects. Budget was hammered out and reviewed and members felt heard. Times change and being aware of the need to rethink how a group operates without stopping altogether was critical for members of the GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club.

Deb Burnham, GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club, Leadership Team Member

The GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club has been busy this summer with Concerts in Coburn Park on Sunday evenings. Money was earned from food concessions (homemade goodies). The funds earned will be used for community projects. June Nickerson-Hovy and Billie Sherman were the chairman for this project.

The Theater at Lakewood is supported with many of our volunteer hours. Debra Burnham, Barbara Robbins, and Bonnie Chamberlain have been ushering. Billie Sherman and June Nickerson-Hovey have put in untold number of volunteer hours sewing costumes.

The club decided this year to have a Leadership Team, composed of Sue Ellen Lexier, Deb

Burnham, and June Nickerson-Hovey. Our new secretary is Kathy Blinn, and treasurer is Billie Sherman. With the Board of Directors, we have had several thoughtful planning meetings and budget planning meetings.

We have planned a series of events, starting in September with our final Planning Meeting which is open to ALL members in which we will discuss the plans for the year, the budget...and, as a bonus, we will show you a technique for producing a "NO FAIL " watercolor! They are invited to bring a friend!

Hune Nickerson-Hovey, GFWC Skowhegan Women's Club Leadership Team

GFWC Winterport Woman's Club

Submitted by: Ellen Van Vranken

GFWC Winterport Woman's Club certainly had a busy spring! In May four of our members attended the State GFWC Convention in Freeport during which our own Gloria Aurelio was installed as the new State Vice President! Our club won a Creativity award for our program on plastic pollution as well as a state award for our work with New Hope Midcoast and Finding Our Voices as part of our support for the president's signature program. Two of our members won photography awards: Claudette took home two first place awards in the "Reflections" and "Scenic" categories while Ellen won first place in both the "World Up Close" and "Volunteers In Action" categories. We also won first place in the scrapbook contest!



Just after the conference we held our 10th annual perennial plant sale. Due to the hard work of many club members we were able to raise the funds required to finance our many community programs and services and network with the community.

In late June Gloria Aurelio and Kathy White attended the National GFWC Convention in Chicago. Gloria, as Maine's Leads candidate, attended a LEADS training the day before the conference. They came back with great summaries of their involvement with all the activities offered including the chance to dress up in Great Gatsby style! Our club won distinction at the conference for significantly increasing our membership. Ellen and Claudette both won national second place photography awards!



We gathered in June for our annual dinner meeting where we honored Tammy Higgins with the Spirit of America Award for her many years of community volunteer accounting work. We also presented Kathy White with a lovely bouquet and announced that we had made a hefty contribution to Midcoast New Hope in her honor for all the years she has tirelessly contributed to the awareness and curtailment of the effects of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.

That night Kathy White presided over the ceremonial installation of our new officers for the 2024-2025 administration. She cleverly matched each officer's position with a "tussie-mussie" bouquet reflecting the language of the flowers.



Our new officers are, from left to right: Ellen Van Vranken, President, Lisa Hanson, Vice President, Ginny Hughs, Secretary, Laurie McLean, Treasure, board members: Jackie Watson, Claudette Nason, Gloria Aurelio, and Kathy White, Parliamentary Advisor.

The summer months were spent caring for our many community plantings and initiating work on our next big community project: restoring all six community benches. We are looking forward to another productive year with our first potluck membership meeting in September!



GFWC News - Immediate Past President

Welcome back GFWC Maine!

My attendance at the GFWC International Convention in Chicago, Illinois did not disappoint! GFWC Maine was heard across the room as award presentations took place.

Photography awards:

2 nd Place for 'Living the Volunteer Spirit' went to Elleen Van Vranken of the GFWC Winterport Women's Club.

2 nd Place in the 'Reflections' category went to Claudette Nason of the GFWC Winterport Women's Club

And 2 nd place in 'Our World Close up' went to Ellen Van Vranken of Winterport Women's Club!

GFWC Maine State Awards:

Civic Engagement, Marjorie Pfeiffer, Chairman

Health & Wellness, Sally Manchester, Chairman

Education & Libraries, Amanda Taylor, Chairman

Membership, Nancy Ames, Chairman

Leadership, Elaine Brickman, Chairman

The 'Club Creativity award given among all the Clubs across the states was awarded to the GFWC MIOSAC Club of Dover-Foxcroft!

GFWC Maine Pine Tree Notes was awarded the Newsletter Contest winner and GFWC Maine was recognized in participating in the GFWC Legislative Scavenger Hunt!

Along with other Sate Presidents, I was awarded the Charlotte Emerson Brown Award for Exemplary Service & Excellence in State Leadership. Something I could not have accepted without the support of all members of GFWC Maine!

What an exciting time for GFWC Maine! Clearly Clubs know their 'Why' and the work and pleasure to be involved in the greatest organization of the General Federation of Women's Clubs!

Congratulations to GFWC Maine!

Maureen Provencal

GFWC Maine Immediate Past State President





*Congratulations to 50 year Clubwoman
Jane Shaw, GFWC Lubec Women's Club*



Julia Brady, GFWC Lubec Women's Club President; Jane Shaw, GFWC Lubec Women's Club; Suzanne Raymond, GFWC ME President. Photo courtesy of Gloria Leveillee, GFWC Research Club of Limerick.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GFWC NER Conference

September 13-15, 2024

Portland, Maine

GFWC National Day of Service

Saturday, September 28, 2024

GFWC ME Fall Conference

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Waterville, Maine

(Call and Registration attached)

GFWC ME Pine Tree Notes

Nov/Dec deadline, November 1, 2024

Call to GFWC Maine Fall Conference Wednesday, October 23, 2024
Best Western Plus – O’Brien’s Event Center
Waterville, Maine

"Breaking Barriers – Offering Hope"

Very PRELIMINARY AGENDA

“Going Forward With Confidence”

Tuesday, October 22, 2024	3:00 PM	GFWC Maine Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 23, 2024	8:30 AM	<i>set up Marketplace (state fundraisers only)</i>
	9:00 AM	Registration and Marketplace OPEN
	10:00 PM	Business Session / Opening Ceremonies
		Delegates Fund Fundraising President’s Project – St. Jude Children’s Hospital LEADS Graduate 2024 GFWC Convention 2024 & Awards Arts and Culture Civic Engagement Education and Libraries Environment Health & Wellness Legislation/Public Policy GFWC Signature Program
	12:00 PM	“Getting to Know You” Luncheon
	1:00 PM	Women’s History Research Center Report Writing Workshop Membership LEADS 2025 Communications/Public Relations
	3:30 PM	Adjournment



Additional Information:

Best Western Plus Hotel is located just off Interstate 95 at exit 130.

The meeting will be held in O’Brien’s Event Center and has its own entrance; you don’t need to enter through the hotel’s main entrance.

Hotel address is: 375 Main St.
Phone: 207-873-0111



GFWC Maine Fall Conference - October 23, 2024 – Best Western Plus, Waterville, Maine

REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline: Must be postmarked by October 7, 2024)

Name: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone and E-Mail: _____

Club: _____

Emergency Contact and Phone: _____

Registration Fee \$46.00 includes Deluxe Deli Buffet Lunch.

- Checks payable to **GFWC Maine** for registration/meal fee.
- Please complete a **separate registration form** for each attendee.
- Mail registration form and check to Anne Cress, PO Box 623, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Phone 207-717-7576 | Email jkhbranch09@gmail.com

- A **late fee of \$5.00** will be added for registrations postmarked after October 7th.
- Please note **no refunds** after **October 14, 2024**.



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MARKETPLACE REGISTRATION



MARKETPLACE will be available ONLY for state fundraising activities

State fundraising chairmen will need to register for a marketplace table. All tables are 8 feet and will be covered - plus a chair. **Deadline to register: Oct. 14th**

Tables will be labeled so you will know your designated spot. Space is limited.

To register, contact President Suzane by email straymond72@gmail.com or call 207-717-4139 (leave a message if she is not available.) Also include if you need a full-size table or half table.

GFWC Maine Marketplace items for sale or for raffle must NOT include any homemade food items. This includes all items such as muffins, pies, breads, fudge, relish, cookies, bars, etc. This does NOT include commercial items that are intended for group fundraising.