



GFWC OF NORTH CAROLINA

OUR HISTORY, OUR PROGRAMS

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina (GFWC-NC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. We are diverse in age, interests and experiences, and are united by a desire to create positive change in our communities. Together, we transform lives every day.

We are a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Established in 1890, GFWC and its over one million members represent more than 20 countries. Each member club maintains its identity and focus while benefitting from the strength that comes from being a part of the international service organization whose motto is "Unity in Diversity".

GFWC is the world's largest and oldest nondenominational, nonpartisan, international volunteer service organization of women.

Focusing on Federation...

Lucy Bramlette Patterson extended an invitation to NC clubs and representatives gathered together from the:

- North Carolina Sorosis Club of Wilmington
- Goldsboro Woman's Club
- Circulating Book Club of Salisbury
- Alpha Club of Statesville
- Embroidery Club of Winston-Salem
- Sorosis Club of Winston-Salem
- Round Table of Winston-Salem

On May 27, 1902, in the Salem College chapel in Winston-Salem, the NC Federation of Women's Clubs was organized. Mrs. Patterson was elected president.

Today, NC clubwomen continue to make a difference in our communities promoting education, community service, and leadership development.

Preserving the Past ...

North Carolina club women, believing in "The Union of All for the Good of All," select programs and projects that best meet the needs of communities drawing from the areas of Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, and Public Issues.

GFWC-NC is rich in opportunities for leadership development, personal growth, networking, and friendship.

1903 Joined the GFWC.

1906 Adopted federation colors, blue and white.

1910 Adopted "The Clubwoman's Hymn" written by Sallie Southall Cotten.

1911 Organized Districts.

1913 Chartered by the State. Adopted a seal and motto.

1926 Adopted plan for Junior Department.

1927 State Headquarters established in Raleigh.

1963 Voted to take Sub-Junior Clubs, later known as Juniorettes, into Federation.

1982 Juanita Bryant installed as International President of GFWC, the only North Carolinian to hold this office.

1990 Organized first GFWC collegiate club at Meredith College.

1998 Changed name to GFWC of North Carolina.

2002 Celebrated 100th Anniversary in Winston-Salem, the city of its birth.

"I thought the time was ripe for a Federation of the state clubs of North Carolina..."



Lucy B. Patterson, 1902

Building our Legacy...

Our Programs

GFWC and GFWC-NC partners with organizations whose scope and mission align with our work. This allows us to magnify our impact as our sister clubs and federation members from around the world work in service with these organizations. Our programs are founded through a rich history of service.

Arts

We encourage clubwomen to pursue, promote and support arts activities in our communities. Whether traditional or innovative our arts categories include:

- Crafting
- Literary
- Performing
- Visual
- Multidisciplinary



We celebrate artists at our signature, state-wide GFWC-NC Arts Festival. It is an annual gathering of clubwomen and prospective college scholarship recipients where we host artwork competitions, watch performances, and present arts scholarships to deserving recipients.

1932 Assisted in launch of the North Carolina Symphony.

1963 First state to endow a Chair for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

1967 First Arts Festival held outside of Convention.

1985 Whitener Piano Scholarship instituted for high school seniors pursuing a music degree.

1989 Organized Artfest-An arts and crafts competition for mentally and physically challenged North Carolina citizens.

2002 Established the Lucy Bramlette Patterson Creative Writing Student Award at Salem College which is presented in honor of a North Carolina female writer.

GFWC-NC: Dedicated To Community Improvement Through Volunteer Service. Since 1902

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Our History, Our Programs

Conservation

Through preservation, maintenance, and restoration we educate members and our communities about the importance of our natural resources. The opportunities are nearly endless, but some things we've focused on include:

- Recycling and Waste Handling
- Soil Conservation
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Land Maintenance
- Beautification
- Wildlife Protection
- Community Gardens



1958 Endorsed Keep America Beautiful program and emphasized need for information centers on principal highways.

1976 Coordinated statewide telethon that raised over \$350,000 to benefit the North Carolina Zoo.

1980 Held first energy Conservation Seminar at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

1998 Contributed over \$50,000 to the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences for the construction of the Nocturnal Life Station.

2002 Contributed approximately \$100,000 for renovation and expansion of the North Carolina State Aquariums.

Education

We open doors to new opportunities and help the people in our communities improve their quality of life through our volunteer efforts in support of education. Through woman-power and money we support activities that include:

- College Scholarships
- K-12 Reading and Tutoring
- Student School Supplies
- Teacher School Supplies
- Library Support
- GED Tutoring
- Membership Reading



1903 Traveling libraries were started in NC. A total of 92 traveling libraries, later known as bookmobiles, were donated to the State Library Commission.

1930 Educational pilgrimage of 186 adult women and men night school students to Washington, DC in support of adult education. Their initial efforts led to the establishment of the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina.

1965 Combined with the Sallie Southall Cotten Loan Fund established in 1913, the

new Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship became an annual four-year renewable scholarship.

2008 Contributed over \$70,000 to the Blue Ridge Parkway Parks As Classrooms Project.

Home-Life

We provide resources that promote a healthy lifestyle; increase awareness, prevention, research, and treatment of disease; target personal development; address the issues of hunger, inadequate housing, and homelessness; and prevent or correct financial difficulties. Our home-life activities include:

- Immunization Programs
- Disease Awareness and Prevention
- Fitness Opportunities
- Financial Workshops
- Food Banks
- Emergency Night Shelters
- Nursing Homes
- Mental Health Facilities



1937 Endorsed and supported passage of the Social Security Act and introduced Child Labor Act.

1949 Children's Clothing Closet adopted as State Junior Project in conjunction with the State Board of Public Welfare.

1986 The Alzheimer's Disease Special Project raised \$10,000 for research for the Duke Medical Center.

1990 Clubwomen Against Narcotics Special Project increases advocacy in the fight against drugs.

1998 Special aid given to victims across the state and country from foods following Hurricane Floyd.

International Outreach

K Y\ Yd'a Ya VYgVW'a YVHMf ['cVU' Wfmbghfci [\ Ux cWwZXi Wjcb UbX UMcBzk \ jW]b h fb UZwWUb [Y]b UbXZf' ci f ['cVU Z]YbXgUbXh Yf communities. Mainly through donations, and with



volunteer activities in support of those donations, our International Outreach activities include:

- Immunization Funding
- Cultural Exchanges
- Livestock Donation
- Medical Services
- Days for Girls Kits
- Global Awareness
- Human Trafficking
- Clean Water



1951 Books for Peace initiated-a project wherein children's books about democracy were purchased and distributed overseas.

1960 Over \$55,000 contributed to Crusade for Children-the largest sum raised in any state.

1967 School in Bolivia built and named in honor of Past State President Marjorie Yates Yokley.

1999 Supported Special Olympics World Games held in Raleigh.

2001 Began work with Heifer International to provide animals to enable hungry persons to feed themselves and care for the earth

Public Issues

We actively connect club and community members with projects and activities relating to civic and social responsibilities. These include:

- Citizenship
- Military Personnel
- Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
- Safety and Crime Prevention



1945 A total of 24 fighter planes and bombers were bought by selling war bonds. NC clubwomen sold over 12M in war bonds and purchased the hospital ship, Larkspur.

1954 GFWC began Community Improvement Program and offered \$60,000 in prizes.

1963 The Federation Drive for Seatbelts won the Governor's Outstanding Service Award in the field of Traffic Accident Prevention.

1999 Supported Special Olympics World Games held in Raleigh.

First women elected to top North Carolina government leadership positions came from Federation ranks :

- Beverly Perdue, Lt Governor/Governor
- Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State
- Gertrude McKee, Senator