



This emblem design was approved in 2023 for current use.

127th Annual May Convention; Friday, May 17, 2024 was held at the Guest House Retreat & Convention Center, 318 West Main Street, Chester, Connecticut 06412. The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut was honored to have as a guest for the Convention-Suellen Brazil; GFWC International President Elect.

Program listings and followed:

3:00-4:30 PM Convention Registration; Pamela Lerner.

4:30-5:30 PM Paint & Sip-Wine Tasting & Wine Glass Painting Event; w/Dee Mulqueen-Thank you to Wendy Clery; GFWC/CT 2nd VP for sharing her talents in a creative artistic role to paint wine glasses with the GFWC Emblem.

5:30-6:00 PM Social Time, Fundraising, Exhibits.

6:00-7:00 PM Dinner. If so desired -pause for a moment to be thankful for our abundance and pleasures today!

7:00 -PM Processional Formation - "The White Barn" Processional -Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman: Donna announced the following:

PAST PRESIDENT; Jeanne Waseleski 2006-2008, PAST PRESIDENT; JoAnn Calnen 2010-2012 and PAST PRESIDENT; Deborah Fiore 2020-2022.

ASST. TREASURER; Pamela Lerner & TREASURER; Stephanie Capasso.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY; Ashley Waseleski & RECORDING SECRETARY; Kathy Matusiak.

3RD VICE PRESIDENT; Nicole Karalli & 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT; Wendy Clery.

PRESIDENT ELECT; Kathleen Barnes.

"Please rise for our GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT ELECT; Suellen Brazil and GFWC/CT STATE PRESIDENT; Katherine DeBurra."

7:15 PM Call to Order: Friday, May 17, 2024 by GFWC/CT State President Katherine DeBurra called the meeting to order with the following greeting.

"Good Evening -This President is honored to welcome you to the 127th Annual May Convention and I'd like to call this meeting to order honoring our traditions, all of you and your wonderful work in your communities here at the beautiful Guest House Retreat Center. I know that a few of you were married here as this used to be the Chester Inn and a very popular wedding venue! It has kept its charm and it's a wonderful new spot to try for our event. Be sure to view the Photography and we are displaying a Quilt that was gifted to me at the Harwinton Club Meeting in March

honoring Women’s History month. The Quilt was gifted to Naoma Morgenstein in her administration in 1978-1980. I decided to sign it and pass it along to each President after me. You may notice a square that your club has donated to that quilt. “We are so lucky to share this weekend with our esteemed Guest; Suellen Brazil; GFWC International President Elect and I will ask Debbie Fiore to introduce her in a more formal fashion shortly.”

Donna J. Dougherty; Past Club President of the WC of Madison 2002-2004 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Elizabeth King; Past Club President of the WC of Madison 2006-2008 led the Collect. (Printed on the back of the program.) Lynne Sarro; Club President; The Women’s Club of Madison did the Inspiration.

Credentials Report; Donna Farrell; Convention Meeting Chairman 2022-2024. Registration/Preliminary Credentials were given:

Credentials Worksheet

Past State Presidents	4
Club Presidents	15
State Board Members/Officers	76
Voting Delegates/Board Members	76
Total Voting	76
Total Non-Voting Delegates	0
Registered Guests	7
Total Attendees	83
District with the Largest Attendance	Southeast
Club with the Largest Attendance	The Women’s Club of Madison

A Quorum declared. JoAnn Calnen; Parliamentary Advisor -read the Rules of Convention-printed in the program. Introductions-Katherine DeBurra-EC Board: ASST. TREASURER; Pamela Lerner.

TREASURER; Stephanie Capasso.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY; Ashley Waseleski.

RECORDING SECRETARY; Kathy Matusiak -Announcement of the previous minutes: Minutes for the last meeting in December have been written, edited and approved, and are on the website for your information. 3 Readers for these meetings minutes are: (Preferably Members who are registered for both days of the Convention.) Donna Farrell, Joann Hohensee and Lynne Sarro volunteered.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT; Nicole Karalli.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT Wendy Clery.

PRESIDENT ELECT Kathleen Barnes; she introduced her family in attendance.

President Katherine DeBurra introduced the Past CT State Presidents in attendance as followed: Jeanne Waseleski 2006-2008, JoAnn Calnen 2010-2012 and Debbie Fiore 2020-2022 and Debbie was invited to the dais to introduce honored guest Suellen Brazil; GFWC International President Elect.

Greetings from Suellen Brazil. Greetings with Keynote Speech to be done on Saturday. Suellen thanked the CT Membership and her Hostess; Wendy Clery for the wonderful welcome to CT thus far including a beautiful drive from the airport and lunch at Lenny & Joe's Seafood in Madison enjoying a delicious lobster roll which the restaurant is noted for. President DeBurra thanked Suellen and welcomed her to Connecticut with a riddle. Now that you've had the best lobster in CT -I have a riddle for you? –“Do you know how lobster communicate? With “shell phones” of course!” 😊

Jeanne Waseleski shared wonderful greetings from many Past State Presidents in attendance and those who could not. She led into the Nominating Report; Jeanne Waseleski; Appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee; April 2023 to fill the resignation of Chairman Helen Barakauskas.

According to the bylaws/Section D Elections -The President is to call for nominations from the floor for each candidate:

Section D -Article 1

1. *The President shall call for nominations from the floor following the report of the Nominating Committee at the State Convention of an elective year.*

And article 2.

2. *Election shall be by plurality vote of the duly accredited delegates present and voting.*

The ballot read as follows:

Ballot for the May 17, 2024 Election of the 2024-2026 Administration.

*If you nominated a candidate from the floor;
please write that name below listed candidate on that line provided.*

Office of the President: Kathleen Barnes

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 members and a parliamentary advisor for her administration. She will assume the duties of the President at the close of the next annual convention unless a president filling an unexpired term is elected to a two-year term in that office.*

Office of the First Vice President: Wendy Clery

YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Second Vice President: Nicole Karalli

YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Third Vice President: Sara Newell YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Treasurer: Jean Kehoe YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Assistant Treasurer: Pamela Lerner YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Recording Secretary: Joann Hohensee YES ___ NO ___

Office of the Corresponding Secretary: Jean Keating YES ___ NO ___

4. The Corresponding Secretary shall be the choice of the President-Elect. The name of the person selected by the President -Elect shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate.

There being no nominations from the floor, President DeBurra introduced the Aides and asked them to distribute the ballots; 2022-2024 Appointed Aides: Maddy Marzullo; Harwinton, Sally Johnson; Harwinton and Sue Michaud; Enfield. Sandy Barry; Enfield graciously accepted the request to assist at this meeting. The meeting remained in order while ballots were completed and collected. Sue Michaud and Sandy Barry counted them. They presented the following report to President DeBurra and it was read. No write-in candidates were presented on the ballot for any candidate by the Membership.

Ballot Results for the May 17, 2024 Election of the 2024-2026 Administration.

Office of the President: Kathleen Barnes

40

- 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 members and a parliamentary advisor for her administration. She will assume the duties of the President at the close of the next annual convention unless a president filling an unexpired term is elected to a two-year term in that office.*

Office of the First Vice President: Wendy Clery **YES -40**

Office of the Second Vice President: Nicole Karalli **YES-40**

Office of the Third Vice President: Sara Newell **YES-40**

Office of the Treasurer: Jean Kehoe **YES-40**

Office of the Assistant Treasurer: Pamela Lerner **YES-40**

Office of the Recording Secretary: Joann Hohensee **YES-40**

Office of the Corresponding Secretary: Jean Keating **YES-40**

4. The Corresponding Secretary shall be the choice of the President-Elect. The name of the person selected by the President -Elect shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate.

President DeBurra announced the election results and election completed congratulating the new EC Board 2024-2026. She asked for a motion to destroy the ballots. Moved by Anne Marie Lane; Madison and seconded by Mary Davis; Madison to approve the ballots to be destroyed. All in favor.

A small break for recess was called so JoAnn Calnen to set up the installation of the newly elected Executive Board for 2024-2026 for GFWC/CT.

Installation by JoAnn Calnen with an egg theme in nests for the newly elected 2024-2026 Executive Board. Kathleen Barnes; GFWC/CT State President 2024-2026 spoke and announced her theme which we will hear in the months to come; her tagline: *“Kind hearts, brave minds, fierce spirits, our members make a difference! In the spirit of the GFWC Motto; Unity in Diversity this focus is to increase access and inclusion for people of all abilities.”* She mentioned supporting Special Olympics, raising a puppy for Canine Companions, donating books and games to Syd’s Shack, the Airport Sunflower Project, supporting Ability Beyond and MARC, Inc. Kathleen asked that all clubs look at their meeting places and event locations making access and inclusion a priority. She selected an owl as her symbol which are often the guardians of vineyards, come in all sizes, represent knowledge, communication, and intuition.

After the Installation, door prizes were distributed. President DeBurra recessed the meeting at 8:15 PM to the sitting room to enjoy some piano music from Daniel Hand High School volunteer. Jeffery Liang. The meeting to resume 9:30 AM Saturday.

Saturday, May 18, 2024

8:45 -9:30 AM Convention Registration reopened with the Photography Contest Display with awards, Fundraising and Exhibits.

9:30 AM Convention Reconvenes w/Call to Order of the 127th GFWC Connecticut Annual Convention; by Katherine DeBurra; GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024 who called the meeting back to order. She asked that all the Women Veterans in attendance

please rise FIRST -to led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. The recitation of the Collect was led by Michelle Eifes; Leads Candidate 2024, Harwinton WC. The Inspiration was given by Patricia Thal; Past President; WC of Madison; 2020-2022.

Credentials Report- & Presentation of the Program. Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman gave the Saturday update of credentials and asked if there were any corrections to the program. Being none, the meeting continued.

Credentials Worksheet

Past State Presidents	3
Club Presidents	14
State Board Members/Officers	63
Voting Delegates/Board Members	63
Total Voting	63
Total Non-Voting Delegates	0
Registered Guests	1
Total Attendees	64
District with the Largest Attendance	Southeast
Club with the Largest Attendance	Killingworth Women’s Organization

A Quorum declared. President DeBurra asked everyone to review the Rules of Convention written in the program that were read by JoAnn Calnen; Parliamentary Advisor Friday evening.

A beautiful Memorial Service was led by-Madeline “Maddy” Marzullo of the Harwinton WC. She dedicated a jar of sand with shells and a pearl to each member who had passed away since the last May Convention in May 2023 to honor of the Ocean theme of the Administration of 2022-2024. President DeBurra donated and collected the sand and shells from the Madison beach. Attending Members from Clubs who had a Member pass were given the jars as a remembrance of the following loss of passed Members. Report inserted.

Memorial Service: Maddy Marzullo, GFWC The Harwinton Woman’s Club conducted the Memorial Service, beginning by asking everyone to stand in memory of Gloria Hutchinson, a member of the GFWC for over 50 years and a past president of the Bethel Women’s Club who passed on August 22, 2023. Candles were lit in memory of the following Members:

Barbara Bria and Violet Mattone; Bethel Women’s Club, Olga de la Victoria; Hamden Woman’s Club, Patricia Anne McCarthy; Newtown Woman’s Club GFWC, Charlotte Bradbury and Ellen Pandiscia; East Hartford Woman’s Club, Martha Eddy; Manchester Woman’s Club, Doris Smith; GFWC The Harwinton Woman’s Club, Virginia Phillips; Suburban Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain, Barbara Grant and Anna Cecere; Windsor Woman’s Club of CT, Carmel C. Genera and Jennifer Hass Caruso; Northford/North Branford Women’s Club GFWC, Elizabeth “Liz” Young; Windsor Locks Women’s Club, Elise Jaeger, Joan Mills, Noreen Toscano, and Marian Miller; The Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield.

The Guest Keynote Speaker was Suellen Brazil; GFWC International President-Elect. Deborah Fiore; WC of Enfield introduced GFWC International President-Elect; Suellen Brazil. Highlights of her speech included the new member portal, the electronic magazine “News ‘n Notes” and the second National Day of Service on September 28, 2024 which will focus again on food insecurity. She stressed “*We are called to serve.*” She also invited everyone to the upcoming International GFWC Convention in Chicago with the registration deadline approaching.

Reports of GFWC/CT Officers.

ASST. TREASURER: Pamela Lerner reported that the collection of dues has been going very smoothly this past year and thanked everyone for their attentiveness to deadlines. She reminded everyone to return their name badges to her at the end of the Convention. President DeBurra thanked Pam for her outstanding service!

TREASURER: Stephanie Capasso reported the GFWC/CT finances are a good place financially. Money was carefully watched and funds were moved from the checking account to a Money Market account collecting a higher interest rate during this Administration. The \$12,000 for scholarships has been moved into the checking account from the Ameriprise Accounts for payment of the scholarships in the summer after tuition bills are sent to the Treasurer Jean Kehoe; 2024-2026. President DeBurra thanked Stephanie for her outstanding service!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Ashley Waseleski shared two formal regrets that she received. One from Eileen Driscoll; By Laws Committee Chairman who could not attend this Convention and Anne Edwards; Member at Large who also was unable to attend the Convention. President DeBurra thanked Ashley for her outstanding service!

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kathy Matusiak as announced at last night’s meeting: *ANNOUNCEMENT* of the minutes; Minutes for the last meeting in December have been written, edited and approved, and are on the website for your information. The 3 Readers for the May Convention Meeting Minutes 2024 are: Donna Farrell, Joann Hohensee and Lynne Sarro. President DeBurra thanked Kathy for her outstanding service!

3rd VICE PRESIDENT Nicole Karalli reported that GFWC/CT grew in Members this year and congratulated the CT Membership! She thanked the District Presidents and Vice-Presidents 2022-2024 and introduced those in attendance: President DeBurra thanked Nicole for her outstanding service!

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT: Nancy Coraggio; District President, Janet Jabieski; Asst. District President. **SOUTHEAST DISTRICT:** Shirley Cavanaugh; District President, Carolyn DellaPietra; Asst. District President. **NORTHWEST DISTRICT:** Maddy Marzullo; District President; Jenny Czyrko; Asst. District President.

NORTHCENTRAL DISTRICT: Donna Recknagel; District President; Jean Kehoe; Asst. District President.

She announced the 2024-2026 District Presidents and Vice-Presidents and introduced those in attendance:

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT: Marlene Patren; District President, Jeanne Braude-Magi; Asst. District President. SOUTHEAST DISTRICT: Lynne Sarro; District President, Mary Ellen Corlett; Asst. District President. NORTHWEST DISTRICT: Michele Brescia; District President, Judy Michael; Asst. District President. NORTHCENTRAL DISTRICT Sandy Barry; District President, Karen Allies; Asst. District President.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT Wendy Clery : Wendy thanked all the Clubs and Members in the State announcing the following statistics for reported efforts:

Projects: 749

Volunteer Hours: 51,246

Dollars Donated: \$245,806.

In-Kind Donations: \$125,136.

Funds Raised: \$145,999.

Wendy shared a great comparison and analogy that if the members were paid Minimum Wage that would equate to: \$804,049.74. She shared in research she had discovered that according to the IRS Standard of Volunteer Service hours which values volunteer time at \$28.54 an hour- the Connecticut Membership would earn \$1,462,560.84. It would take one person over 25 years to do all of that service work that was reported! Congratulations to the CT Millionaires doing community work! President DeBurra thanked Wendy for her outstanding service!

Advancement Area Awards.

Awards were announced by Wendy Clery, 2nd VP; Dean of CSP's. Chairmen in attendance were asked to the podium to present their perspective areas with Wendy.

Communications & Public Relations First Place: S, GFWC Women's Club of North Haven; M, Somers Woman's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, GFWC Northeastern CT Woman's Club; M, GFWC Hamden Woman's Club; L, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield

Fundraising First Place: S, Terryville Woman's Club; M, Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club; L, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield Second Place: S, Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain; M, Woman's Club of Woodbury; L, Mystic Woman's Club

Leadership First Place: S, Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain; M, Hamden Woman's Club; L, Mystic Woman's Club Second Place: S, Harwinton Woman's Club; M, Northford-North Branford Women's Club; L, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield

Membership First Place: S, Milford Women's Club; M, Northford-North Branford Woman' Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, GFWC Northeastern CT Woman's Club; M, Somers Woman's Club

Legislation & Public Policy First Place: S, GFWC Northeastern CT Woman's Club; L, Windsor Woman's Club

Women's History & Resource Center First Place: Windsor Woman's Club of CT & GFWC Second Place: Mystic Woman's Club

Signature Project/Domestic & Sexual Violence First Place: S, Suburban Women's Club of Greater New Britain; M, Northford-North Branford Woman's Club; L, East Hartford Woman's Club Second Place: S, Terryville Woman's Club; M, Bethel Woman's Club; L, Killingworth Woman's Organization

Advocates for Children First Place: S, Terryville Woman's Club; M, Northford- North Branford Women's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain; M, GFWC Woman's Club of Greater New Milford; L, Manchester Women's Club

Arts & Culture First Place: S, GFWC Harwinton Women's Club; M, GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club; L, Women's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield Second Place: S, Suffield Woman's Club; M, Somers Woman's Club; L, Women's Club of Enfield

Civic Engagement & Outreach First Place: S, Suffield Woman's Club; M, Hamden Woman's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, GFWC Women's Club of North Haven; M, Woman's Club of Greater New Milford; L, Windsor Woman's Club of CT & GFWC

Education & Libraries First Place: S, Suffield Woman's Club; M, Northford-North Branford Women's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, GFWC Women's Club of North Haven; M, GFWC Woman's Club of Greater New Milford; L, Manchester Women's Club

Health & Wellness First Place: S, GFWC Women's Club of North Haven; M, Hamden Woman's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization Second Place: S, Waterbury Woman's Club; M, GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club; L, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield

Veterans First Place: S, Suffield Woman's Club; M, GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club; L, East Hartford Woman's Club Second Place: S, GFWC Northeastern CT Woman's Club; M, Bethel Women's Club; L, Killingworth Women's Organization

Sheila Macauley Memorial Walking Contest, Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain, Bethel Woman's Club, Women's Club of Madison. Individual Winner: Shannon Anderson; Bethel.

Club Sutton Gavel: Hamden Woman's Club

Pettis Gavel: The Women's Club of Madison

Plummer Gavel: Manchester Women's Club

Casioppo Gavel: Somers Woman's Club

Special Awards were announced by President DeBurra:

Eileen Russell Spirit Award: Initiated in 2022, this award is presented at May Convention in recognition of a GFWC Connecticut Member that demonstrates outstanding dedication, loyalty, leadership and mentoring others to continue the legacy of GFWC in a positive SPIRIT. The State President selects recipient. Awarded to: Zunny Martinez; Hamden WC.

Lafontaine Volunteers in Progress (VIP) Award: This award is presented at the May Convention to a GFWC/CT Executive Board member showing a devotion to GFWC/CT and a willingness to perform beyond the call of duty. The selection is made by the GFWC/CT Executive Committee. Awarded to: Beverly Regan; Danbury/New Fairfield WC.

Photography First-Place entries-sent to International:

Our World Up Close - "Just Hanging Around", Kathy Aiello, Bethel Women's Club (SW)

Natural Wonders- "Natural Bridge" Holly Martin, Harwinton Woman's Club (NW)

Reflections-"Sparkling Frost" Kathy Aiello, Bethel Women's Club (SW)

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit-"Day of Service" Arlene B. LeRoy, Manchester Women's Club (NC)

Photography Second-Place entries:

Our World Up Close-"Swallowtail Delight", Holly Martin, Harwinton Woman's Club (NW)

Natural Wonders-"Clearing Sky", Stephanie Nelson, Woman's Club Danbury/New Fairfield (SW)

Reflections-"Street Scene", Patricia Mahoney, Newington/ Wethersfield Woman's Club (NC)

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit-"Dreaming of a Bright Future", Katherine DeBurra The Women's Club of Madison (SE)

Of special note is the Jennie June GFWC/CT Candidate: Jeanne Waseleski; Past GFWC/CT President 2006-2008 and the GFWC/CT LEADS Candidate: Michelle Eifes for 2024 to represent Connecticut in Chicago at the International Convention.

PRESIDENT ELECT Kathleen Barnes; GFWC/CT State President 2024-2026 spoke and announced her theme which we will hear in the months to come; her tagline: *“Kind hearts, brave minds, fierce spirits, our members make a difference! In the spirit of the GFWC Motto; Unity in Diversity this focus is to increase access and inclusion for people of all abilities.”* She mentioned supporting Special Olympics, raising a puppy for Canine Companions, donating books and games to Syd’s Shack, the Airport Sunflower Project, supporting Ability Beyond and MARC, Inc. She asked that all clubs look at their meeting places and event locations making access and inclusion a priority. She selected an owl as her symbol which are often the guardians of vineyards, come in all sizes, represent knowledge, communication, and intuition. President DeBurra thanked Kathleen for her outstanding service!

President Elect: Kathleen Barnes announced the Community Impact Projects that were submitted this reporting year:

Clubs who reported on their GFWC Community Impact Programs were:

1. GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman’s Club for its school backpack food program.
2. The Women’s Club of Madison for taking the initiative to create townwide awareness of the Signature Project Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness.
3. The Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield for adopting an elementary school and providing materials and ongoing volunteer time.
4. The Windsor Woman’s Club of GFWC and CT for creating a season of giving. The Northford/North Branford Woman’s Club for its program to increase literacy.
5. The Killingworth Woman’s Organization for the Killingworth Helping Hands Food Pantry.

The Community Impact Projects were judged by outside judges not Members of GFWC/CT as is required of the GFWC process and The Killingworth Woman’s Organization for the Killingworth Helping Hands Food Pantry was selected as the Connecticut Entry for the Community Impact Program Awards. They ran a successful Food Pantry for the Administration of 2022-2024. International winners will be selected at the Chicago International Convention. Clubs who submitted reports for this area were given certificates and KWO was wished well!

The following report was given by President Katherine DeBurra; **GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024:**

This President has truly had an honor that many should not fear to offer themselves! GFWC/CT State President! I had a rocky start to this Administration with the pandemic rearing its ugly head and causing a tremendous amount of extra work for me! I doubled down and decided that I was going to make the most of these 2 years

and I gave myself some goals. I love people especially our members and I wanted visit with as many Clubs as possible and I got to almost all of them. I wanted to offer other options in venues and still have enjoyable times. I think we really did make our work - lots of fun. I was astounded at District days this year by your accomplishments -and the most important one is Membership is up! I cannot wait to represent you in Chicago. I'll take with me some of the best memories and I thank you for all that you have done for me on this very presidential journey!

11:45 AM-The Expression of thanks was given by Kathleen Barnes; GFWC/CT State President Elect 2024-2026. The Meeting was recessed at 12:00 Noon for Friendship time, Fundraising & Exhibits. Lunch was served from 12:30 -1:30.

1:30 PM Afternoon Session -Special Presentation, Donna Farrell; Convention Chairman directed a great fun skit to honor the end of the 2022-2024 Administration. "As the Tide Goes Out!" with a Surfin' USA song theme. The performance was done by the Executive Board and the Membership was invited to sing along. Feedback was very positive and the fun participation was an engaging and a fun farewell. President DeBurra shared words of praise for Donna, saying that she did such a great job as Convention Chair during the administration presenting her with a "thank you" gift and the Membership applauded her excellent efforts in the 2022-2024 Administration.

1:45 PM – Syd's Book Shack. Meredith Daggett; Owner and creator of Syd's Book Shack spoke and told her story of creating this Non-Profit in Madison that helps purchase "talker" computers for non-verbal individuals. She shared her story of the birth of her twins and the advocating for one that has this disability and how this book shop helps her and others to communicate their needs more easily. The GFWC/CT Membership made the presentation of Service Project! Over 1,000 books of donation of adult fiction books to Syd's Book Shack were made! *Read about this amazing family who created this non-profit to help provide access to communication devices to assist nonverbal people find their voice!* **www.sydsbookshack.com**

Motion by Kathleen Barnes to donate \$100 to Syd's Book Shack. Seconded by Linda Melillo; Hamden. All in favor.

2:00 PM Memorial Scholarships-Beverly Regan; Scholarship Chairman. A thank you presentation was given by previous scholarship recipient Kay Horan who is now a Physician's Assistant in Stony Brook Hospital in Long Island New York in the neurosurgery department working on brain surgeries or related spine surgeries. She thanked the Federation for the previous awards and stressed how helpful the scholarship was in her program of studies.

From K. Horan; Scholarship Recipient 2021:

Hello Everybody and Good Afternoon:

I was honored to receive an invitation from your President; Katherine DeBurra, to come to your meeting today on the celebration of your May Convention 2024 and the announcement of this year's scholarship winners. I am a Guilford CT

raised student and was sponsored by The Women's Club of Madison. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina. I was a past recipient of two of your scholarships in the Fall of 2021. I was awarded these scholarships at the time I was starting my master's degree in Physician's Assistant at Stonybrook University in Long Island. The funds were so helpful towards the expenses of my tuition and I truly appreciated the generous award and still do now.

To let you know what I am doing now that I have finished my degree, I am working as a PA in the Neurosurgery Department at Stonybrook Hospital in Long Island. I volunteered for a one-month clinical rotation during my second year in the program, and I chose the field as my first choice for a working PA. I am assisting in brain surgeries, spine surgeries, as well as caring for patients before and after surgery. I find the field very interesting and challenging at the same time, and I love it. My schedule is three days, 13.5 hours each shift, so I have four days off a week; a good schedule to spend time with my dog, fiancé and hopefully raise a family someday. I just bought a home with my fiancé in Stonybrook, Long Island, so my commute will be approximately 5-10 minutes including parking the car. I'm here to say THANK YOU for the work you all do to generate funds to help students in their education. I know firsthand as a student being awarded your scholarships, it was a tremendous feeling and relief as I began my program. I appreciate it very much, thank you all, and enjoy the rest of this wonderful event. Kind regards; Kay Horan.

Beverly Regan, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield; GFWC/CT Scholarship Chairman gave a very moving speech on the excellence of the applicants as noted from the words from Kay Horan and her achievements. She stated that the Memorial Scholarship committee met and selected the following five winners for this year's Phipps and Schoelzel scholarships with wonderful words about each candidate:

1. Caroline Shadman, sponsored by the Northford/North Branford Women's Club, was awarded a \$1,000 Dorothy Schoelzel scholarship to continue her studies in music education at UConn.
2. Julia Mazur, sponsored by the Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club GFWC of CT was awarded a \$1,000 Schoelzel scholarship to continue her graduate studies in Library and Information Sciences at Simmons University in Boston, MA.
3. Mackenzie Fischer, sponsored by the Harwinton Woman's Club, was awarded a \$3,000 Phipps scholarship to continue her graduate work at UConn in Veterinary Medicine.
4. Claudia Padykula, the second candidate of the Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club GFWC of CT and sponsored by The Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield was awarded a \$3,000 Phipps scholarship to continue graduate studies in Speech, Language, and Hearing at Southern Connecticut State University.
5. Jessica Slogesky sponsored by the Manchester CT Women's Club, was awarded a \$4,000 Phipps scholarship to pursue her studies towards a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation (Child Life Concentration).

President DeBurra complimented the Committee and the selection of the candidates. Every candidate that applied was given some scholarship depending on their contributing circumstances. This spreads the word of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Connecticut in a truly wonderful fashion!

2:30 Fundraising- Sara Newell- Thank you Sara Newell and Rainey Pavarini.
Other Business- Announcements & Raffles, Door Prizes, Final Credentials.

3:00 PM Adjournment- Katherine DeBurra & Kathleen Barnes exchanged the customary pin -a long time heirloom of the GFWC/CT State pinning it to Kathleen Barnes. President-Kathleen presented Katherine DeBurra with a beautiful collage of words contributed by the Members and collected funds to design and purchase a pin of her liking to commemorate the 2022-2024 Administration. They hit the gavel to close the meeting together to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment: 3:11 PM.

FINAL Credentials Worksheet

Past State Presidents	3
Club Presidents	14
State Board Members/Officers	63
Voting Delegates/Board Members	63
Total Voting	63
Total Non-Voting Delegates	0
Registered Guests	3
Total Attendees	66
District with the Largest Attendance	SOUTHEAST
Club with the Largest Attendance	Killingworth Women’s Organization

Important dates: Listed on the program were:

International Convention in Chicago; June 28, 2024- July 1, 2024!

NERC -Sept. 13-15 -Portland, Maine.

Save the date: National Day of Service! September 28, 2024!

Respectfully submitted; Kathleen Matusiak; GFWC/CT Recording Secretary 2022-2024