



THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

November/December 2010

By: Vicki Holden

*2010-2012 GFWC Membership Committee Member
GFWC Western States Region representative*

How often do we give ourselves a gift? It may seem that we never do, but have you considered your membership in GFWC as a gift you give yourself?

According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, a gift is “a notable capacity, talent or endowment” and “something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation.” Both of these definitions seem to describe our involvement in the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

We receive gifts of friendship and support from other GFWC members in our clubs, districts, states, regions, and even around the globe. We know that we can count on friends made in Federation to be more than willing to assist us when necessary, to provide much needed moral support during times of crises, to share laughter, and to share the joy of achievement. These relationships grow and flourish with our membership.

The gift of health is very precious, and reports show that volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, lower rates of depression, and less incidence of heart disease.

Another benefit of belonging is the gift we receive in the form of opportunities to expand our horizons. Leadership and life skills accompany many of the projects and programs that we undertake. Because we said “yes” to the responsibilities of being a member, we find ourselves meeting important people, traveling to interesting places, doing something we never thought we would or even could, and making wonderful memories. From a famous movie, we hear that “winter must be cold for those with no warm memories.” GFWC provides us possibilities and warm memories that are endless gifts.

Our communities participate in this gift to ourselves, because they allow us to do what we can to fulfill the mission of GFWC. We are given opportunities for civic action. The gift is in the giving to enhance the lives of those in our community.

Our continued membership in GFWC is a gift that perpetually improves the quality of our lives. Maintain your membership status and stay involved. And while we’re about it, we shouldn’t be selfish by keeping this wonderful federation to ourselves! Share the gift by encouraging others to reap the benefits of belonging to an outstanding international organization.

Remember, a gift is “a notable capacity, talent or endowment” and “something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation.” Our neighbors, friends, and family have gifts to share with our communities, and we know that belonging to a GFWC club is the perfect way for them to do so. Strengthen your membership, your club, and your community. SHARE the gift that keeps on giving--GFWC!



“THREE NEW MEMBERS IS A GREAT REASON TO RECRUIT THIS SEASON”

There is a reason in every season to roll out the red carpet to invite and entice potential new members across the year. Each season will focus on a different theme:

“Rake in New Members”

- Fall: September, October, and November
- Recruitment Report due December 1

“Flurry of Members”

- Winter: December, January, and February
- Recruitment Report due March 1

“Growing Members”

- Spring: March, April, and May
- Recruitment Report due June 1

“Warm Up with Members”

- Summer: June, July, and August
- Recruitment Report due September 1

Recruiting members is a year-round process, and our new initiative reflects this. A club that recruits three new members each season will end the year with 12 new members! There are many national awareness and commemoration months and days aligned with GFWC Community Service Programs (Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, and Public Issues), the GFWC Signature Project (Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention), and GFWC Juniors' Special Project (Advocates for Children). Plan creative membership recruitment campaigns and events around these great Federation-related opportunities!

For more great ideas on recruiting and retaining GFWC members download the “A Time for GFWC’s Seasonal Recruitment Campaign” guide packet.

<http://www.gfwc.org/images/gfwc/A%20Time%20for%20GFWC%20Seasonal%20Recruitment%20Campaign.pdf>

For more information regarding GFWC membership, please review the GFWC Membership Advancement Guide in the 2010-2012 *GFWC Club Manual*, available online at www.GFWC.org/ClubManual.

Recognition

Clubs achieving and reporting three new members as a result of their seasonal recruiting efforts will be recognized in the *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.

Reporting New Members to Your State Federation

Please follow the guidelines for your state when sending in dues, names, and contact information for your newly recruited members.



A TIME FOR GFWC'S SEASONAL RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN REPORT

"Three New Members is a GREAT Reason to Recruit This Season"

To submit the names of those successfully recruited during your membership campaigns, please complete the form below and return it to GFWC Headquarters by the deadlines noted:

Check which recruitment season you are reporting:

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter | Flurry of Members (December, January, and February) | Report due March 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring | Growing Members (March, April, and May) | Report due June 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer | Warm-up with Members (June, July, and August) | Report due September 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall | Rake in New Members (September, October, and November) | Report due December 1 |

"A Time For GFWC Membership" Membership Campaign
1734 N Street NW | Washington, DC 20036-2990
F: 202-835-0246 | GFWC@GFWC.org

Club Name _____
City _____ State Federation _____
Club President's Name _____
E-mail _____ Phone (day) _____

Listed below are names and contact information (address, telephone number, and e-mail addresses) of new members recruited as the result of **A TIME OF GFWC MEMBERSHIP** recruitment event (June 2010 through May 2012):

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please use additional sheets if necessary.