



The Azalea City News

Newsletter of GFWC Azalea City Woman's Club

Member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC)

A Note From The President

There have been many activities to report on since the last newsletter. Our club had 8 members attend the 2024 GFWC Georgia Institute & LEADS conference in Albany, GA. We had lots of fun visiting with friends from all over the state as well as making new friends. So much information was gained from the weekend from great program ideas, updated online reporting, the release of our new plan of work with the 2024-2026 GFWC Georgia Yearbook, and so much more.

Our club also celebrated our 55th Anniversary! So many years of history and we still have two of our founding members, Avernell Rogers and Jeanette Coody. We celebrated with a reception with many eats, treats, and of course a cake. We pinned Avernell and Jeanette with their 55-year GFWC service pins. We also pinned new members Jasmin Conner and Collette Cormier with their GFWC member pins.

As we head into September, we are gearing up for our GFWC National Day of Service (GFWC NDS). GFWC NDS is a day in which all of GFWC come together to highlight an area of need, take action, and raise public awareness about its importance. This year's GFWC NDS issue of focus is food insecurities. On September 28th, Women's Clubs worldwide will be volunteering at local food banks and organizing food drives to raise awareness and advocate to end food insecurity.

Our club is holding a Food Drive for the Quola Soup Kitchen. We currently have 3 food collection drop-off locations and will continue to add more. We are collecting: jumbo or regular-sized canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, pasta, rice, peanut butter, disposable bowls, plates, and cups, socks, washcloths, shampoo, soup, and personal hygiene items. Below are the locations of our drop-off boxes. Please keep checking our new website (<https://azaleacitywomansclub.org>) for additional sites.

Bodyworks Family Fitness 4510 Valnorth Dr, Valdosta 31602
VLRA Senior Citizens Center 1360 East Park Ave, Valdosta, 31602
First Federal Savings of Valdosta, 460 Norman Dr, Valdosta, 31603

Justin Jacobs
President



CONTACT US

EMAIL: azaleacitywc@gmail.com

Website: [https://azaleacitywomansclub.org/](https://azaleacitywomansclub.org)

Visit our Facebook Page:
[@azaleacitywomansclub](https://azaleacitywomansclub)



Visit our website

2024 - 2026 Executive Officers

President	<i>Justin Jacobs</i>
First Vice President	<i>Nancy Nahila</i>
Second Vice President	<i>Charlie Oliver</i>
Treasurer	<i>Janice Blanchard</i>
Parliamentarian	<i>Avernell Rogers</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Lisa Spells</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Annie Roberts</i>

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a unifying force, bringing together local women's clubs, with members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

With more than 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than 20 countries, GFWC members are community leaders who work locally to create global change by advocating for women, children and families on issues such as domestic violence and sexual assault, food insecurity/hunger, and promoting healthy lifestyles. GFWC also supports the arts, works to preserve natural resources, advances education, encourages civic involvement, and works toward world peace and understanding.

For more information, please visit www.GFWC.org or call 1-800-443-GFWC (4392).



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
GEORGIA

2024 - 2026 Community Service Program Chairs

Art & Culture

Debbie Altobello

Civic Engagement & Outreach

Jeanette Coody

Education & Libraries

*Nancy Nahila / Collette
Cormier*

Environment

Justin Jacobs

Health & Wellness

*Charlie Oliver / Lynn
Taylor*



Arts & Culture



Debbie Altobello and Janice Blanchard dropped off the fundraising check for the 'Dosta Theatre after their opening production of "The Hallelujah Girls".



President Ben Hawley and Debbie Altobello



Treasure Tasha Conrad, Debbie Altobello, and Sandi Parish of the Valdosta Junior Woman's Club.

The Arts & Culture CSP is also fundraising for next year projects. Some upcoming projects include sponsoring youth in a summer art program, a writing contest for local schools, and continued support of the local Theatre Guild Valdosta.



Civic Engagement & Outreach



September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). NPM is an annual campaign to educate people on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. FEMA's Ready Campaign (<https://www.ready.gov/>), aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies. Here are some simple steps to make your family and friends better prepared for an emergency

- Learn Your Risks & Responses - having a way to receive Emergency alerts is very important. You can get emergency alerts through NOAA Weather Radio, news on TV, and social media. Know which natural disasters can occur in your area. Also, know where the nearest shelters are and the appropriate evacuation routes for your family.
- Make A Plan - Sit down with your family and plan out what to do in an emergency. Include plans for children, seniors, disabled, and pets. You can go to [Ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan) for information.
- Build a Supply Kit - A supply kit is vital for potential disasters. Pack food, First Aid Kit, water, flashlight, and pet supplies to last for at least three days without power. [Ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) has more information on building a kit.



The Time to Prepare is Now

Gather supplies for your family, pets and service animals.

- ✓ Food & water
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Flashlights
- ✓ Chargers
- ✓ IDs & insurance documents

Education & Libraries



September is:

National Library Card Sign Up Month

National Read a Book Day - September 6

International Literacy Day - September 8

Make sure to keep up with the Book Challenge. In November a big prize will be given with lots of reader swag. Don't forget that every 10 books you read or donate gets you a ticket and a small prize.

Below are the past book challenges:

- A historical fact you didn't know
- A new word
- Favorite book quote
- Reading a book that is different from you and how that changes your understanding of people.

At the Community Partners in Education Kick-off event at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, Azalea City Woman's Club was honored to be awarded the 2024 Large Organization of the Year for our work with Clyattville Elementary School.



Environment

Update on our symbolically adopted sea turtle, Frank Sriracha!

Since Frank Sriracha will be released back into the wild, this is the last regular update.

"Frank Sriracha is almost ready to depart from the Georgia Sea Turtle Center! On September 16, 2024, this turtle received a pre-release exam. This exam is a chance for our veterinarian team to get a final assessment of the patient, as well as collect up-to-date photos, bloodwork, and measurements. Frank Sriracha also received a passive integrative transponder (PIT) tag. This is a microchip that is placed under the skin so if this turtle is ever encountered again, Frank Sriracha can easily be identified. In the photo, our team is double checking that it is in working order and putting Frank Sriracha's identification number in our database.



If Frank Sriracha's bloodwork comes back normal, this turtle will soon venture into the Sargasso Sea! Due to the requirement of a boat for this release, Frank Sriracha's departure will not be public."

~The Georgia Sea Turtle Center Team.



ACWC had plans to plant flowers with children at Westside Elementary School but we were rained out. The club donated 14 bags of potting soil and \$100 for the school's Chicken Coop Expansion project. Member, Justin Jacobs, stayed and helped with a lesson on composting while sharing a treat with the class.

Health & Wellness



September is Suicide Prevention Month. Suicidal thoughts, much like other mental health conditions, can affect anyone. That is why it is important to raise awareness, shift public perception, spread hope, and share information with people affected by suicide. You can find the Five Action Steps that can help here: <https://www.bethe1to.com/bethe1to-steps-evidence/>



September is Healthy Aging Month. As people get older, maintaining a healthy lifestyle becomes very important to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses and to help prevent common age-related health problems. Here are some tips to help you stay active.

- Eat and Drink Healthy
- Move more, sit less
- Get Regular checkups
- Be aware of changes in brain health.
- Be Social



2024 National Day of Service

The GFWC National Day of Service (GFWC NDS) is a day in which all of GFWC come together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address the need, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs are encouraged to join in and organize community service programs (CSPs) in their communities as part of the GFWC NDS.

This year's GFWC NDS issue of focus is food insecurity. On Saturday, September 28th, the Woman's Club around the world will be volunteering at local food banks and organizing food drives to raise awareness and to advocate to end food insecurity.

Azalea City Woman's Club is having a Food Drive for the Quola Soup Kitchen. We currently have 3 food collection drop-off locations and are looking to add more. We are collecting: jumbo or regular-sized canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, pasta, rice, peanut butter, disposable bowls, plates, and cups, socks, washcloths, shampoo, soap, and personal hygiene items. Keep checking our new website (<https://azaleacitywomansclub.org>) for additional sites.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

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VLTRA Senior Citizens Center 1360 East Park Ave, Valdosta, 31602

First Federal Savings of Valdosta 460 Norman Drive, Valdosta, 31603

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Clubs Members In Pictures

2024 GFWC Georgia Institute - LEADS in Albany, GA.



Annie Roberts, Debbie Altobello, Justin Jacobs, Jenny Nall, Cathy Jones, Kathie Byrd, Jasmine Conner, Gail Merlin, Jamie Stewart, Lisa Spells, and Jeanette Coody



Justin Jacobs, Cathy Jones, and Jamie Stewart



Annie Roberts and Jeanette Coody



2024 GFWC Georgia LEADS Graduates



Charlie Oliver, Janice Blanchard, Justin Jacobs, Jasmine Conner, Debbie Altobello, and Lisa Spells



Charlie Oliver, Jasmine Conner, Lisa Spells, Debbie Altobello, and Justin Jacobs



Jasmine Conner, Cathy Jones, and Janice Blanchard



Justin Jacobs, Jeanette Coody, and Jenny Nall

Azalea City Woman's Club 55th Anniversary Reception.



Avernell Rogers and Jeanette Coody



ACWC History table



GFWC 55-year Service Pinning



Avernell Rogers and Jeanette Coody

September Events

- Sept. 2 - Labor Day
- Sept 4 - National Wildlife Day
- Sept 7 - 9-11 Memorial 5K starting at 8 am.
- Sept. 9 - Club Monthly Meeting at Senior Center starting at 6 pm.
- Sept. 12 - Registration due for Southern Region Conference
- Sept. 21 - South West District Meeting in Tifton, GA
- Sept. 21 - National Cleanup Day
- Sept 28 - National Day of Service (NDS)



October Events

- Oct 4-6 - Southern Region in Greenville, SC
- Oct 14 - Club Monthly Meeting at Senior Center starting at 6 pm.
- Oct 15 - 17 - Tallulah Falls School Visit
- Oct 15 - America Recycles Day
- Oct 18 - United Way Day of Caring
- Oct 19 - Adopt-A-Street Cleanup. Meet at Vallotton Park 9:30 am
- Oct 26 - Levi Strauss Employees Retirement Celebration, Unity Park 11 am - 4 pm
- Oct 31 - Halloween & 5th Annual Festi-Fall at Unity Park 5:30 - 7:30 pm

