



# Atlanta Woman's Club



Member, Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)  
General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

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## May 2018 Issue

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### **Stay patient and trust your journey!**

If I could pass along words of wisdom to the next administration, it would be to stay patient and trust your journey. This will probably be one of the biggest and sometimes frustrating lessons you can learn in leading and in life. Knowing how to do that though can be a challenge. It's not really something they teach us in school and yet we all face this as human beings in every aspect of our lives. I've never been the most patient person when it comes to waiting for what I want but in the past few years life has been teaching me that we/I cannot control every outcome and that things won't always happen according to our/my desired timeline.

I've had to practice patience in various aspects of my life. Several of them in fact at the same time which made it even more challenging. At first, I struggled but I eventually realized that to resist what is, is to create unnecessary stress for ourselves.

With time, I am learning to slowly detach from the outcomes while still working towards certain goals. I kept the faith even though on some days I wondered what the heck was going to happen. But deep down inside though (beyond the voice of my ego), I believed that things would turn out for the best even if the outcome wasn't exactly what I had planned. In fact, maybe it would be even better.

There is something and someone greater than us at work and it's hard for us to accept what we don't see and can't explain but we must trust, let go and be patient. Most of all, be patient. We can't control everything and when we try to force events we just create anxiety and worry.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Past experiences in my life have showed me that when we trust and are patient, things usually work out. And it's usually when we suspect it the least especially when we have completely detached from the outcome.

So my advice to the new administration, savor and trust what you already have within yourself and those around you while cultivating patience and trust. If there's one thing in life that is certain it's uncertainty and when we learn to be comfortable with that (a constant process) we can access much more inner peace.

You are all unique women on a wonderful journey to be duplicated by no one but shared by many. No woman is alone in in this club and in her life's journey. Know that there are always others who have been in your shoes or are currently facing the challenges you are facing within the club and within their personal lives. But together we will find strength in sharing our stories and expertise, our journeys and knowing that all things are possible.

Ladies, for the next two years in the club and wherever life takes you in life -- Trust Your Journey!

I look forward to serving each and every one of you during this next term.

### **Next – Congratulations to The Atlanta Woman's Club!**

In April I was extremely proud to be your President as I attended the North West District's Spring Meeting and GFWC Georgia's State Convention in Athens, Georgia as I accepted on your behalf all of the awards our club earned for the 2017 reporting year. Congratulations to all of the CSP, Advancement Area and Special Committees who received recognition at both the District and State Levels. Not only did we receive recognition but we received lots of silver at the State Convention - below is a list of awards received. I'd like to thank all of the members who joined in and participated on these committees and volunteered with us.

#### **District Level**

Women's History – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Recognition Citation and Best Overall Women's History Silver Award

Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Outreach, Public Issues – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Citation

#### **State Level**

Conservation Service Project "Go Native" Award Citation

Education – Outstanding Arts Community Service Project Citation

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

ESO – Reading Award Citation

International - Georgia Care, Inc. Silver Award

International – Unicef Citation

Communications – Stevens-Youles Communications Citation and Silver Award

Communications - Clubwoman Magazine Citation

Communications – Newsletter Citation and Silver Award

Fundraising – Citation and Silver

Leadership – Dunwoody Leadership Citation and Silver Award

Leadership – Leadership Award citation

1734 Society - The Lucy Willard Citation and Silver Award

Tallulah Falls Award – The Endeavor TFS Citation and Silver Award

Tallulah Falls Award - Martha McElhannon Extra Mile Fund Citation and Silver Award

Tallulah Falls Award - Pat Swan/Lilburn Woman's Club Extra Mile Fund Citation and Silver Award

Tallulah Falls Award - Elaine Singley Chandler Memorial Scholarship Citation and Silver Award

Women's History – Silver Award

And congratulations to Karen Clydesdale who was installed as our North West District President, it is my hope that with an AWC member leading the District we will become more involved with GFWC Georgia during her term.

Thank you!

Cimi Douglass

Atlanta Woman's Club President 2016-2018



## 2018 GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

### International Convention is this Summer! June 22-26, 2018

We invite you to join us at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, located in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, June 22-26, for the 2018 GFWC Annual Convention as we celebrate accomplishments, learn about new initiatives, and participate in the advancement of the organization.

GFWC's Group Rate of \$159/night opens on Thursday, March 1. The room block closes on Monday, May 28, at midnight. The best way to reserve a room is online at <http://group.curriocollection.com/GeneralFederationOfWomensClubs>. You may also call for reservations at 855-271-3620; press 1 to make a new reservation.

The Call to Convention is also now available online! Online registration officially opens on March 1 and can be accessed using this link <http://www.cvent.com/d/ytqrfx>, but you may want to first read the Call for a complete understanding of Convention activities.

To help with flight and hotel booking, here is a quick summary of Convention highlights:

Thursday, June 21 – AM and PM tours – *Basilica and Brews* and *Gateway Arch and Beautiful Blooms*

Friday, June 22 – AM tours (*Architecture of St. Louis, Basilica and Brews, and Gateway Arch and Beautiful Blooms*) 2016-2018 Board of Directors meetings, LEADS, Mississippi Valley Region Hosts “Winter Wonderland” Welcome Banquet

Saturday, June 23 – Opening Ceremony, Partner Awards Luncheon, Junior Awards Banquet and “Speakeasy Soiree” Fun Night

Sunday, June 24 – Partner Workshops, GFWC Workshops, Region Banquets

Monday, June 25 – Elections, Service Project, Awards Lunch, GFWC Style Project Runway Conservation Challenge, “A Celebration of Volunteer Spirit” Gala Banquet

Tuesday, June 26 – Education and ESO Awards Brunch, Installation Banquet, Installation

Wednesday, June 27 – 2018-2020 Board of Directors Meeting

We are very excited about the venue, the activities, and the speakers we have in store. We hope you make plans to attend!

<https://www.gfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/MarchApril2018.pdf>

## MEMBERSHIP

Tonya S. Watson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Membership

Email: [tonyaswatson@gmail.com](mailto:tonyaswatson@gmail.com)

Spring Fling was Splendid!

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our first After Hours event (Spring Fling) of the year. We had a small group of twelve that attended and it was really delightful. Having a smaller group of ladies together lends itself to warm, comfortable conversations and interactions. We learned about each other, our club, A Seeded Event and then heard from Terrisita Terry and Norma Nyholff of Nicholas House. Nicholas House is the only shelter in Atlanta that provides housing to homeless families regardless of family makeup. They provide temporary housing while addressing the root causes of family homelessness so a family may never be homeless again. Terrisita shared with us their mission while Norma shared with us stories of some of the children's experiences and personal struggles. We learned that Nicholas House alone is unable to accommodate the 300 applications they receive each month to house homeless families and that 37% of the population is unsheltered which was shocking to hear.

Terrisita and Norma invited our members to tour their facility – the next tour date is May 19<sup>th</sup> with tour times of 10:30 until 11:30. They are hopeful that a visit to Nicholas House will offer you the opportunity to get *excited* about the progress of families and to see real impact occurring in the community. Guests can register for their visit at [www.nicholashouse.org](http://www.nicholashouse.org)

On a final note, Terrisita wanted to share a copy of their latest video. The link below provides a glance of their community work and impact.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pr9tFE75V22fYFxEqvPvT8oggSI55r4m/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you to our members who supported and attended this After Hours event and I look forward to attending another event next quarter.

## ESO BOOK CLUB

Hello Readers,

The Atlanta Woman's Club Book Club will meet Monday May 21st at 6:30pm at Myra Carmon's home: 443 Woodstone West Drive, Marietta Georgia 30068. 770-973-7964 H, 404-401-4921 C. mncarmon@icloud.com. Please RSVP to Myra if you will be able to attend.

We are reading *Close Enough to Touch* and author Colleen Oakley will be joining us. Please purchase your copy of the book at A Capella Books, Amazon or Barnes and Noble to show support for our local author.

If you would like a sneak peek at where book club will be held in September join us this Sunday for an Atlanta Woman's Club History tour. Meet at the Glenn House, being restored/rebuilt, at 883 Edgewood Ave NE for a tour from 2-3 pm. Please RSVP to Britton Rogers at berogers24@gmail.com.

Happy Reading! Happy May!

Melodie Rogers

## GIRLS SCOUTS

Please join us via livestream for a special event on May 14 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. ET--G.I.R.L. Agenda 2018: *Leading Change Through Civic Action*. You'll hear from groundbreaking female leaders about the importance of civic engagement and celebrate women and girls who have led positive change in government, public policy, and the democratic process.

Dr. Jill Biden will be our featured keynote, and other speakers will include change-makers who've taken action locally, nationally, and globally to make the world a better place.

At Girl Scouts, the world's largest leadership development organization for girls, we know that the future belongs to *every* girl who believes in her ability to change the world. Through the Girl Scout Gold Award, the G.I.R.L. Agenda Powered by Girl Scouts, and our unparalleled girl-centered and girl-led programming, we prepare girls to lead in their own lives and beyond as they build the courage, confidence, and character to raise their voices and be advocates for the issues and ideas important to them.

Please encourage older Girl Scouts, Girl Scout parents and volunteers, and other Girl Scout supporters to watch this highly anticipated launch --an event that will foster a sense of civic duty in all participants and inspire them to take action in their communities.

To learn more: <https://www.girlscouts.org/leadingchange>



**Girl Scouts®**

## EDUCATION

My service as CSP Education Chair these past 10 years has been quite a journey, and I would like to thank AWC members for their support. Our work has been about the children and the community, not, to me, about the silver or citations. As CSP Education Chair, I directed AWC's work with several Atlanta area schools: Hope Hill Elementary School, Thomasville Heights Elementary School, Inman Middle School, Grady High School, and Carver High School.



Besides working with these various schools, AWC has been instrumental in assisting the following people and organization with their work with children: Genevieve Piturro, founder of The Pajama Program, in opening their Reading Center in Atlanta which assists children in shelters and other children in need; John Childs' Mental Fitness Program serving children who need help getting caught up in their studies; former mayor of Atlanta Shirley Franklin, Chair and CEO of Purpose Built Schools, in her work with underserved children of Thomasville Heights. In our work with Hope Hill Elementary School, AWC donated children's books and also *A Light on Peachtree: the History of the Atlanta Woman's Club* by Anne B. Jones, Ph.D. to the MLK Library.

We arranged for luminaries Andrew Young (United Nations Ambassador and later Mayor of Atlanta), Dr. Louis Sullivan (Secretary of Health and Human Services under George H.W. Bush and founding Dean and Director of Morehouse School of Medicine), and inspiration speaker and writer April Ross to speak to children at Hope Hill Elementary School. In past years, we sponsored members of the Atlanta Police Department to go to Hope Hill and Thomasville Heights to read to the children. We have worked with Atlanta School Superintendent Maria Carstarphen's community outreach programs. The Atlanta Dream Team, sponsored by AWC, went to Thomasville Heights and gave Dream Team t-shirts paid for by AWC to all the children at the school. Members of the Dream Team also participated in Thomasville Heights' Field Day and spoke to the children about the importance of education. They then gave tickets to the school staff to attend an Atlanta Dream game.

AWC donated money to Operation Peace, directed by Marcel Benoit, to prepare children for standardized school testing. AWC worked with Preston Marshall, block captain of a community outreach programs, to make sure children, identified by their teachers, had a book, a coat, and a Christmas tree. Additionally, because of their work with AWC, several of the high profile names listed above served as speakers at our General Meetings: Maria Carstarphen, Shirley Franklin, Genevieve Piturro, Marcel Benoit, and Preston Marshal. Invited to AWC-sponsored events at the schools were City Council members, Atlanta public school board members, and business leaders in the community.

Many of these community connections have led to AWC Seeded Event fundraisers which have raised a lot of money for these organizations. Most importantly and in conclusion, all of these speakers and programs that AWC has sponsored in the past 10 years have worked tirelessly and effectively offering hope and faith in helping these children to envision and hopefully to create a brighter future. Specifically, Ambassador Young, Dr. Louis Sullivan, and April Ross suggested

## EDUCATION CONT'D

to the children that they could be anything they want to be, no matter the situation or the hand life had dealt them. I just want to say thank you to all of you for your support and help in our AWC volunteer work during these 10 years. We have made a difference in these schools and, no doubt, in children's lives, and I want to say, too, that they have also made a difference in mine. As I conclude my decade of work as CSP Education Chair, I want to thank AWC for the honor and privilege of serving.

Donna Foland, Education CSP Chair

## ARTS

Arts CSP will continue our ongoing volunteer project with drawchange on **Monday, 21st from 3-4pm**, which will repeat on every 3rd Monday each month. We will assist children at a local shelter in southwest Atlanta with their art therapy projects. You don't have to be artistic to volunteer, your love and support is all they need. If this project is of interest to you, please contact Billie Harris via email to schedule the month you'd like to volunteer. Only 3 volunteer spaces are available for AWC per month.



### **ART AROUND ATLANTA**

Art is very important to our lives. It creates a release and encourages good moods and overall good health. It's a way to express your innermost thoughts and feelings that you may not be able to put into words, or even invoke feelings within, that you may have never known you had. In whatever way it leaves an impression on your life, make sure to get a dose of art in any form whenever you can. Let's support our local art community. Don't forget to share your experience on social media with other members and friends. Use the hashtag #isupportartswithatlwc and tag us @atlwomansclub on Instagram and Facebook. Sometimes one post can go a long way by influencing others to keep our local art community alive and thriving. Here are some art events that are going on in Atlanta this month:

- ◆ Castleberry Hills Art Stroll: Every 2nd Friday of the month, for more info visit [www.castleberryhill.org/strollinfo](http://www.castleberryhill.org/strollinfo)
- ◆ Grady High School's Fashion Show: Sat., May 12th at 8pm, tickets are limited, please contact Billie Harris @ [hawcinc@live.com](mailto:hawcinc@live.com) for more info and if you'd like to attend.
- ◆ Decatur Arts Festival: Sat., May 26th 10am-6pm at Downtown Decatur, for more info visit [www.decatuartsfestival.com](http://www.decatuartsfestival.com)

Billie Harris, Arts CSP Chair

## GFWC GEORGIA'S STATEWIDE DAY OF SERVICE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> our club participated in GFWC Georgia's Statewide Day of Service Event to raise awareness and support those who are affected by Domestic Violence. We had a total of 26 ladies involved in this initiative, from preplanning, implementation, communication, social media, purchasing and delivering items, donations, and had ten ladies onsite staffing the tables in two shifts. In total our club served approximately 150 volunteer hours over the past few months for this event. We collected donations of hygiene items for shelters, cash and in-kind donations. I appreciate everyone's teamwork and thank all of you who participated. There are a few ladies that put a lot of hours in to ensure the success of this event – a very special thank you goes to:

- ◆ Karen Clydesdale (LEADS/Leadership Chair) who was involved in preplanning and creating takeaway thank you cards;
- ◆ Billie Harris (Arts CSP Chair) for creating our Love Train
- ◆ Page Henry (Domestic Violence Chair) for finding our location
- ◆ Britton (Social Media)/Judy (Communications) for communicating our message on social media channels and weekly
- ◆ Our worker bees onsite: Penny, Pat Walsh, Myra Carmon, Judith Behrens, LaTonya Jordan, Donna Foland, and everyone else who assisted and participated in this event.

Great job ladies!



GFWC  
AWC



The biggest  
reward for  
a thing well done  
is to have done it.

## ATLANTA WOMAN'S CLUB ROSTER OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers

Cimi Douglass, President  
Tonya Watson, 1st Vice President  
Jo Dee Gonzalez, 2nd Vice President  
Sarah June McDavid, Recording Secretary  
LaTonya Jordan, Treasurer  
Penny Blackford, Assistant Treasurer  
Ruth Yurchuck, Corresponding Secretary  
Donna Foland, Parliamentarian

### Board of Trustees

Karen Bacheller, Chair (2016-2018)  
Karen Clydesdale, Co-Chair (2016-2018)  
Cimi Douglass, President/Budget Committee (2016-2018)  
Tonya Watson, 1st VP (2016-2018)  
LaTonya Jordan, Treasurer/Budget Committee (2016-2018)  
Penny Blackford, Asst. Treasurer/Budget Committee (2016-2018)  
Lisa Banes, Secretary (2017-2019)  
Karen Thomson (2017-2019)  
Donna Foland, Parliamentarian (2016-2018)

### Community Service Program Chairs

Jo Dee Gonzalez, Dean of Community Service Programs  
Billie Harris, Arts  
Karen Johnson, Conservation  
Donna Foland, Education  
Connie Morris, Home Life  
Pat Walsh, International Outreach  
Beth Jetha, Public Issues

### Committee Chairs

Judine Heard, President's Advisor  
Sarah Helen Kilgore, Historian  
Leigh Reynolds, Women's History  
Lucy Willard, Tallulah Falls School  
Myra Carmon, 1734 Society/GFWC Liaison  
Karen Clydesdale, A Seeded Event/LEADS  
Melodie Rogers, ESO Book Club  
Karen Johnson, Peachtree Women's Writers Alliance  
Page Henry, Domestic Violence (GFWC & GFWC GA Special Project)  
Rita McGregor, Nominating Committee  
Cimi Douglass and Judy Reece, Website  
Lisa Banes, Marketing/Public Relations  
Judy Reece, Member Events/Communications/Weekly Bulletin/Bridge  
Britton Rogers, Social Media  
Billie Harris, Newsletter Editor