



# Atlanta Woman's Club



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

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## September 2019 Issue

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It does not seem possible that summer is about over and that fall is here. I hope all of you had some fun, travel and relaxation. The work of the AWC continued over the summer and now we are ready to start back in full swing with the many activities of the club. LEADS was held in Athens on August 16<sup>th</sup> with three members attending and Judine Heard was one of the leaders. Institute was held following LEADS on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We had 12 members attend Institute. Institute is helpful in planning the year particularly for reporting and CSPs. The speakers were interesting and informative.

Information for reporting included reviewing the Goal Sheet, Treasurer Vouchers, and also Kim Sekulow spoke on report forms. She stated you should only report 10 projects; one of these projects would be highlighted on the creative report. There are updated forms on the GFWC-GA web site. *Do not use old forms. There should be an example of a report on-line.*

The Marketplace at Institute provided innovative ideas for projects. Some of the Marketplace ideas included: cutting tee shirts in strips and braiding to make jump ropes; taking pill bottles and make sewing kits and emergency kits with Band-Aids; Advocates for Children-How far can a diaper go? Diaper bank to collect diapers to donate to organizations for distribution; De-stressor Adult coloring books, and many other project ideas.

Speaker Cindy Glanton spoke on foster care. She has fostered 125 children over the past 15 years. She has three biological children and eight adopted children. She has a passion for children with special needs and three of her children have Downs Syndrome. She stated not everyone is meant to be a foster parent but that a way to help foster parents is offer support, even a dining card for a night out.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Mary LaMont, Healthy Bodies, spoke of healthy lifestyles. She particularly spoke to the amount of sugar we consume. Other topics covered by speakers included self- defense, sex trafficking and there was a speaker from the Girl Scouts. All were very informative.

There are several dates to mark on your calendar: Remember the September meeting of the AWC is September 9<sup>th</sup>. Catherine Smith, Chair of Home Life CSP has an interesting speaker. The Board Meeting for North West District is September 14<sup>th</sup> and the Fall Meeting of the North West District is October 26<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's at Cumberland. The AWC is the lead club for the district meeting with Northside and Sandy Springs assisting. Cimi is coordinating to make sure the theme is consistent.

**Myra Carmon, AWC President 2018-2020**



## MEMBERSHIP

Hello fellow AWC members,

This incredibly hot summer has certainly flown by quickly however I hope everyone was able to travel a little bit, relax and just have fun. For a bit of "membership friendship", eleven of our members including a few who are fairly new to the AWC, went to SCAD FASH on August 22 to see two of the current exhibits, "Kaleidoscope Katrantzou" by Mary Katrantzou from Greece and "Form and Function: Shoe Art by Chris Francis", an amazing shoe designer from Los Angeles. Afterwards we went to Le Lapin for lunch and had a fantastic afternoon. I highly recommend that if you have not yet seen the exhibits that you venture over to SCAD and see them. You will not be disappointed!

Congrats and welcome to our four newest members who joined us in June, Maurita Poole, Georgia Bentley, Lise Tassy and Melissa Bernadel. We are so lucky to have them on our team, and I am sure they will all be great assets to the club. Please be sure to say hello to them at the next meeting and help to make them feel welcome! Check out their photos and Bios below:



Georgia Bentley

My fifth generational family home still stands in Cartersville, GA and is being used as a food pantry to feed the poor. My family's graveyard originating with my Great Great Grandfather's 1795 grave made the zoning possible for the Providence Cemetery that now serves the Cartersville/Bartow County community. I grew up in Colorado Springs and learned about my deep Georgia roots after I moved here twenty-two years ago with my son John and husband Walt.

With a Master of Science degree, I have worked in management for the company now called Verizon and in university administration for Duke and Vanderbilt. With a PhD in Environmental Engineering my husband has worked for Verizon and is now the South East Regional Environmental Director for Schnitzer Steel. My son John went to Pace Academy, graduated from Auburn University and is responsible for digital marketing at Angel Oak Companies.

Currently, I serve on the Board of Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, the Executive Committee and am the immediate past Chair of Friends of Winship. Also, a member of the Junior League of Atlanta I have served as Chair of the Sustainer Council, Chair of the League Sustaining Transfer (LST) Club and was named Sustainer of the Year in 2014. Other positions of service include the Auburn University Parent Advisory Board, East Cobb Park Board – Parent Advisor to the Junior Advisory Board, Penhurst Homeowners Association Board, Eastminster Presbyterian Church Strategic Planning Committee, and the Radford University Davis College of Business Dean's Advisory Board.

I am honored to deepen my service to the Atlanta Community through one of the oldest non-profit woman's organizations in Atlanta, the Atlanta Women's Club.

## MEMBERSHIP CONT'D



Maurita Poole

A native of Atlanta, Maurita N. Poole attended North Atlanta High School where she was first introduced to international studies. Due to a study abroad trip to Egypt in the tenth grade, she developed a keen interest in Arabic language that later resulted in a Bachelor of Science in Arabic with a minor in Government from Georgetown University. In 2011, she earned her doctorate in Anthropology from Emory University. She is currently director and curator at Clark Atlanta University Art Museum (formerly Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries). She resides between Stone Mountain and Augusta with her husband Guirdex Masse. As a member of the Atlanta Woman's Club, she plans to contribute to initiatives related to the arts, conservation, and environmental sustainability.



Lise Tassy

Lise Tassy is a Registered Nurse, Certified Legal Nurse Consultant and Clinical Documentation Specialist. She has volunteered with different organizations that involve local and overseas medical mission trips. She is also a member of the organization Nursing Caring for Communities (NCC) which provides medical care to the community by offering workshops, career counseling and emergency care for outdoor sporting events. She has also hosted multiple television and radio health segments.

She enjoys traveling, salsa dancing, fundraising and hosting events.



Melissa Bernadel, JD

Melissa Bernadel is a recent law school graduate working in corporate and finance law. She is a certified mediator who also works pro bono in family court advocating for children in the foster care system. She has studied art and sociology in Paris and is a published writer. She has volunteered in the past with numerous organizations including UNICEF, Children's Miracle Network, and Breakthrough Collaborative. Melissa and her fiancé Matt has been together for 11 years, engaged for 4yrs. They have a son, 3mth old Tristen Oliver who just recently learned to roll over. The couple plans to wed in June 2020 at The Wimbish House. In addition to her family, she also enjoys writing, traveling, and volunteering.

**Jo Dee Gonzalez, Membership Chair, 1st VP**

## WOMENS HISTORY

The History Advancement Area committee will meet on Tuesday, September 24th at 5:30 pm at Edgar's Proof and Provisions. From 5:30pm until 6:30pm, we will have a behind-the-scenes tour of the Georgian Terrace and from 6:30pm until 7:30pm we will conduct our business meeting. Please RSVP to Leigh Reynolds at [e.leigh.reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:e.leigh.reynolds@gmail.com) or 404-431-3726.

The Atlanta History Center celebrates the Centennial of the 19th Amendment with a thoughtful exhibit now thru January 31st, 2021. This exhibit was generously funded by former AWC member Emily Bourne Grigsby. A group outing for AWC members is in the planning stages, but this exhibit is worth seeing multiple times.

**Leigh Reynolds, Women's History Chair**

## HOME LIFE

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is coming up on September 28th at The Battery at SunTrust Park! I'd like to get a team together to volunteer with registration, passing out water, etc. Contact Home Life CSP Chair Catherine Smith at [jonesno7@yahoo.com](mailto:jonesno7@yahoo.com) or 678-644-6619 if interested.

**Catherine Smith, Home Life CSP Chair**

## ARTS

Welcome Back Creatives! I hope everyone has had an amazing summer full of memories...with some of those being art related :) . On **Wednesday, September 11th, 2019**, Arts Committee Members will meet at **6:30pm** to discuss ideas for upcoming volunteer opportunities. Bring your thinking cap and enthusiasm to the Reserve at Lavista Walk Clubhouse at 1155 Lavista Walk NE, Atlanta, GA 30324. Refreshments will be served. There will also be a sign up sheet to volunteer with the Arts CSP at our Sept. 9th General Meeting. I look forward to seeing you!

The Arts CSP will roll out a new way to stay current on volunteer projects, reminders, and real time updates. If you plan to volunteer at any time with the Arts CSP, please make sure to download the GroupMe App on your mobile device and submit your full name and mobile number via email to [hawcinc@live.com](mailto:hawcinc@live.com) to be added to the AWC Arts CSP group.

**Billie Harris, Arts CSP Chair**



## PUBLIC ISSUES

### *Where we've been*

#### **BINGO! Public Issues CSP helps staff Georgia Justice Project's Back-2-School Initiative.**

Thank you to the great group of volunteers at GJP's annual Back-2-School event on Saturday, July 20th. AWC's turnout was impressive and even included some soon-to-be members. In addition to our bingo duties, we staged and served lunch and drinks, played with kids, chatted with attendees and had a great time.

AWC joined volunteers from Alston & Bird, The Mary Alice and Bennett Brown Foundation, The Home Depot, UPS, King & Spalding, Georgia-Pacific Foundation, The Coca-Cola Company, Troutman Sanders, Parker Poe, Chick-fil-A, the Kiwanis Foundation, and Central Presbyterian Church, plus GJP staff and interns, to get the kids ready for school and prepared for a bright future.



#### **A couple of wise women...**

Public Issues CSP put in an appearance at the black-and-white themed Parliament of Owls, the first-ever Midtown Lantern Parade, presented by Midtown Alliance and held on August 3rd. It's a great community-building event that's sure to repeat in 2020. Maybe we should put together an AWC flock for next year's event?

### *Things that matter.....*

#### **Mass shootings and domestic violence:**

In the wake of recent mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, gun violence is on everybody's mind and at the heart of important conversations. I'm guessing we're all aware a 2018-20 GFWC Signature Program is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention and that among its goals are "to develop and influence federal and state legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and their families."

But did you know about the statistical correlation between mass shootings and domestic violence? According to a study by [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), as reported in [The New York Times](#), "In more than half of all mass shootings in the United States from 2009 to 2017, an intimate partner or family member of the perpetrator was among the victims."

According to the article, "Federal law prohibits people convicted of certain domestic violence crimes, and some abusers who are subject to protective orders, from buying or owning guns."

## PUBLIC ISSUES CONT'D

But there are many loopholes, and women in relationships who are not married to, do not live with, or have children with their abusers receive no protection. Federal law also does not provide a mechanism for actually removing guns from abusers, and only some states have enacted such procedures.”

So how does Georgia\* measure up? Not well, as it turns out, once you take a look at Georgia’s gun laws. Did you know that Georgia:

- \* had the 19<sup>th</sup> highest gun-death rate among the states in 2017?
- \* is the 10<sup>th</sup> highest supplier of crime guns to other states?
- \* exports crime guns to other states at twice the national rate?
- \* allows firearms transfers between private parties with no background check?
- \* allows the sale and possession of assault weapons, 50-caliber rifles and large-capacity ammunition magazines?
- \* does not limit the number of weapons that may be purchased at one time?
- \* requires no waiting period for firearms purchases?
- \* does not regulate ammunition sales?
- \* has no laws regulating “Saturday night specials” or other “junk guns”?
- \* allows possession of firearms or ammunition by persons convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors?
- \* allows possession of firearms or ammunition by persons subject to domestic violence protection orders?

[\* SOURCE: [Georgia Gun Laws Score an F](#), Giffords Law Center]

Even applicable federal domestic violence regulations can’t protect victims in Georgia. For example, Georgia\*\* does not require courts to notify domestic abusers when federal law prohibits them from possessing firearms or ammunition, nor does it require those abusers to surrender any firearms or ammunition that are prohibited under federal law. Unbelievably, Georgia does not even authorize or require that firearms or ammunition be removed from the scene of a domestic violence incident.

[\*\* SOURCE: [Domestic Violence & Firearms in Georgia](#), Giffords Law Center]

What can we – as women and as AWC members – do to effect needed change?

Here’s a good start: tell your legislators to support [Senate Bill 150](#).

“As debates rise across the country in the wake of mass shootings, Georgia legislators will have the opportunity next year to take guns away from people guilty of violence against intimate partners,” reports [The Augusta Chronicle](#). “Senate Bill 150 passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee this year but stalled when gun rights lobbyists spoke against it. Since then, more than 100 Georgia residents have been killed by intimate partners.”

The [Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report](#), a statewide initiative of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence ((GCADV) and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) found that between 2009 and 2016, there were five mass killings in Georgia.

## PUBLIC ISSUES CONT'D

Four, (80%), involved intimate partner violence and resulted in 20 deaths.

“GFWC is a powerful voice for those who have no voice,” states the GFWC Signature Program manual. Domestic violence affects more than its victims. No one is safe when domestic abusers have access to firearms. It’s time for us all to speak up!

For your legislator’s name and contact information, enter your address and zip code at [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org).

### ***Coming up....***

#### **GPBI Fall Policy Forum: Women-Powered Prosperity**

The Georgia Budget & Policy Institute invites you to attend Women-Powered Prosperity, a half-day forum that examines the barriers that keep Georgia women behind on many critical measures of success including pay, wealth and health, with the path to change illuminated by local and national speakers, including:

Keynote Speaker: Mehrsa Baradaran, Professor of Law at UCI Law, author of *How the Other Half Banks* and *The Color of Money*

Elise Blasingame, Executive Director at Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia

Taifa Smith Butler, Executive Director at Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Leng Leng Chancey, National Executive Director at 9 to 5

Tamieka Mosley, Director of Grantmakers for Southern Progress

Tickets are \$100 and include breakfast, networking, panel discussion, lunch, and Q&A sessions. See schedule and purchase tickets at [www.peachchamber.com/events/details/women-powered-prosperity-forum-149](http://www.peachchamber.com/events/details/women-powered-prosperity-forum-149)

**Friday, September 20th, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta

1440 Spring Street NW, Atlanta GA 30309

**Lisa Banes, Public Issues CSP Chair**



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