THE FOOTHILL GAZETTE

GFWC CFWC Foothill District

Building Stronger Communities - Together



October 2026
Issue 21

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From Club Ideas to Club Action



Luanne Arredondo
President

Have you ever read an article and thought - "this could have been said more concisely? Well, this month I challenged myself to turn a full-page President's Message into eight lines. .

September gave us ideas. October is our opportunity to put them into action and November is our District Open House where you get to shine with the general public - see page 2 for more information. Invite someone new. Try something different. Celebrate a member. Build a new community connection. Every small step strengthens our clubs and moves Foothill District forward. Together, we are Empowering Clubs, Inspiring Leaders, and Strengthening Federation. Thank you for all you do!



Dr. Linda Vallejo
1st Vice President, Dean

Report writing is more than documenting your club's annual activities. It is an opportunity to tell your story, celebrate your accomplishments, and showcase the impact of your volunteer service.

As GFWC award-winning writer Bridget J. Leiskau Dickler, GFWC Wisconsin Dodgeville Federated Woman's Club reminds us in her poem Words, we can capture words on paper for others to read. Let us do the same with our clubs' achievements, using compelling narratives that bring our service to life.

I caught you words
You thought you could pass by me
Unnoticed
But I,
Have captured you
On paper
So, all who read
May manipulate you.

Coming Soon! Club presidents will receive GFWC and CFWC reporting guidelines and submission forms. Remember, your club's story deserves to be told. Make every word count!

Reach out to 2nd VP Membership Pat Hufman for more information.

People Projects Purpose Together

FOOTHILL DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

Stronger Clubs Brighter Communities

Showcase Your Club. Share Your Impact. Strengthen Our District.

Stronger Communities Happier Families Brighter Tomorrows

Saturday, November 21, 2026
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

San Dimas Masonic Lodge
220 N. Monte Vista Ave.
San Dimas, CA 91773

CLUBS — THIS IS YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

Clubs are invited to create a club showcase table for the open house. Share what makes your club special!

- Signature projects and programs
- Community service activities
- Upcoming events
- Photos and success stories
- Membership opportunities
- Club personality and traditions



HELP US FILL THE CHP TOY DRIVE

Each club is asked to bring new, unwrapped toys for children to support the CHP holiday toy collection.

Small Toys Brighten Big Hearts



EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 – 11:00 AM
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
Club displays • Fellowship • Community Connections • Membership Opportunities

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
FOOTHILL DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING

ONE MORNING. THREE OPPORTUNITIES.

Showcase Your Club.

Welcome Our Community.

Make Christmas Brighter for a Child.

Community Women Change Lives

GFWC CFWC FOOTHILL DISTRICT

Empowering Clubs • Inspiring Leaders • Strengthening Federation

SERVICE ♥ FRIENDSHIP ♥ LEADERSHIP ♥ LASTING IMPACT

A Kinder Brighter Stronger Tomorrow

QuickTips



2nd Vice President Membership
Pat Huffman

GFWC Unity Membership Challenge
The California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) is actively participating in the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Unity Membership Challenge.

Introduced at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention as part of the 2026–2028 administration, Unity Projects, the initiative is designed to strengthen local chapters through five core pillars:

- Service
- Storytelling
- Partnerships
- Recruitment
- Member Engagement

The Shine Like a Star Connection
The challenge centers on the theme "Shine Like a Star". By completing the specific benchmarks outlined in the Unity Membership Challenge Toolkit (available via the GFWC Member Portal), clubs earn star points toward regional and national recognition.

This challenge works hand-in-hand with the long-running GFWC Star Pin Recruitment Program. Under this program, individual club members earn physical star pins and colored backing circles as cumulative rewards for bringing in new members (ranging from a white star for 5–9 recruits up to a gold circle for 50+ recruits)



Treasurer
Tamara Miller

It's a pleasurer to serve as your District Treasurer for 2026-2028. To reach me for any financial operational questions my direct email is: Club1270Deventer@yahoo.com. Please note that I handle all District financial responsibilities.

- For reimbursement requests, I need the purpose of the request, your receipt, and payee name.
- You may use the Zelle Transfer Process to handle District payments, tickets for events, or any other request related to our District. The Zelle transactions number is 9092155828. Remember to let me know what it is for in the Zelle Memo area.

On the next page you will find the Ratified District Budget for 2026-2027 and the month-end September report.

SPIRIT AWARD UPDATE: So Cal and East Valley are tied. Let's see how they do after the Area B meeting!.

QuickTips

GFWC CFWC Foothill District

Building Stronger Communities - Together

Ratified Budget

2026 - 2027 Administration

INCOME	2025-2026	2026-2027
Balance Forward June 30, 2026	$1,873.34	$1,668.26
Donations	$100.00	$100.00
New Member Federation Dues - 10 x $5	$50.00	$50.00
Ways & Means	$500.00	$500.00
District Convention Registration for Members 40 @ $5	$400.00	$200.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME	**$2,923.34**	**$2,518.26**

EXPENSES	2025-2026	2026-2027
Charitable Donations	$200.00	$400.00
Office Supplies, Printing, Postage, Website ($271)	$373.34	$400.00
LEADS Candidate	$200.00	$100.00
Annual State Filings & Raffle Permit	$55.00	$55.00
Financial Review	$100.00	$100.00
CFWC Insurance	$85.00	$85.00
District Convention 2027		
President/Dean	$100.00	$100.00
Guest/Misc. Expenses (Certificates, Decorations, etc.)	$200.00	$150.00
CFWC Convention Expenses 2027		
CFWC Program Ad	$60.00	$60.00
President	$400.00	$400.00
Dean	$200.00	$200.00
CFWC Area Conference President 2026	$50.00	$50.00
CFWC Board Meetings (1)		
President @ $250 each	$500.00	$250.00
Dean @ $150 each	$300.00	$150.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES	**$2,823.34**	**$2,500.00**

RESERVE FUND	$100.00	$18.26

FOOTHILL DISTRICT

September 2026 Financial & Membership Snapshot

BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	SEPTEMBER EXPENSES	ENDING BALANCE
$886.34	$0.00	$355.00	$531.34

SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

Masonic Lodge Rental Sept.–Oct. rental	**$300.00**
SGVD Area B Conference – President	**$55.00**
Total Expenses	**$355.00**

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

79 total members

La Verne-San Dimas	49
Federated East Valley	19
SoCal Volunteers	11

Prepared from the Foothill District September 2026 balance sheet.

QuickTips



Parliamentarian
Toby Kahan

Strong bylaws provide the foundation for a strong District.

At our September 19, District Board meeting, members ratified appointments to the District Bylaws Committee, which will review our governing documents and help ensure they continue to meet the needs of Foothill District. We are pleased to welcome Members Toby Kahan, Tamara Miller, Sonya Whatley, Dr. Linda Vallejo, Genny Rigoli, and Mary Matson to this important committee.

Thank you to those who have agreed to serve. Your work will help us maintain clarity, consistency, and good governance as we move forward.



Recording Secretary
Pat Borchard

At this time, FHD does not have a Corresponding Secretary position, therefore, as Recording Secretary, I am often asked to send emails to the Club Presidents on behalf of our District President. Sometimes what is sent is just informational and other times it requires you the membership to RSVP. Should an RSVP be required please take the time to respond. That response may be "yes" I will be attending or "no" I am unable to attend. Either response aids in the planning of a meeting or event. Below are some general guidelines regarding RSVP etiquette...

1. Upon receiving an invitation/inquiry to attend a meeting. Please check your calendar as soon as possible and RSVP attendance or non-attendance.This will enable your President and/or refreshment hosts to plan effectively.
2. If you are requested via email, please respond via email. Respond to the sender of the email, it is not necessary to reply all.
3. Respond by the deadline. Hosts need to confirm catering(if necessary), seating, supplies, etc.
4. Your RSVP is a commitment. This is important since our District has a specific quorum. If we do not have a quorum, we cannot do business. If your plans change, please inform the sender of the email.

Upcoming events can be found on the last page of the newsletter. Please reference it and calendar in District meetings, CFWC(State) meetings, and GFWC(National)meetings. This will enable you to respond immediately to any requests made for your attendance.

The Golden Rule for RSVP Etiquette:
Whether you are hosting or attending, the core principle is simple: respect other people's time and effort. Your District President spends time in planning an informative and fun meeting, It is understandable that our members have busy lives and limited availability. Good RSVP etiquette acknowledges both realities and keeps communication clear, kind, and timely.

Club Toolbox

From a member's perspective, the right tool at the right time can make all the difference. The Club Toolbox is designed to give you practical, ready-to-use resources that make it easier to lead, participate, communicate, plan, and turn good ideas into action.



Strengthening Federation



Advocates for Children
Mary Matson

November 21 brings two wonderful opportunities together—welcoming new friends and brightening the holidays for children in our community. Join us for our Foothill District Open House, hosted in partnership by Membership and Advocates for Children.

Showcase your club, invite a guest, enjoy fellowship, and bring a new, unwrapped toy for the CHP Toy Drive. Together, we can grow our clubs while helping make the season brighter for a child.

Please help us spread the word! Share the Open House flyer on the right with your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and community groups. This event is open to everyone, and the more people we reach, the more opportunities we have to grow our clubs and collect toys for children in need.





CFWC Area B Vice President
Pat Borchard

SAVE THE DATE & plan to attend the Area B Conference scheduled for October 10, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Diamond Bar for the Area B-Fiesta of Friendship- Conference. Registration is $55. Registration deadline is a firm October 2nd. Thank you to those of you who have already registered and to those that registered at the FHD meeting on September 19th.

As your Area B Vice President, I am looking forward to seeing a tremendous turnout by the membership of Area B, especially from the membership of my own District. Our CFWC President, Chris Herzog, 1st VP-Cindy Sanders, 2nd VP-Mickie Reed will be in attendance and speaking. Our guest speaker will share information related to Elder Abuse. There will be lunch, vendors, raffles(with proceeds being donated to the Elder Abuse 501©3), and a hands on project. San Gabriel Valley District is the host of this Conference and San Joaquin, Tierra Adorada, and Foothill District have all helped in the planning of this event. The Districts of Area B have planned an informative and fun Conference so plan to attend. The flyer for this event is attached to this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE: CFWC Convention is scheduled for May 14-16, 2027, Doubletree Hilton, Mission Valley San Diego. Please plan to join in on the fun as You CATCH the WAVES of Federation.

GFWC has developed a strategic plan and CFWC is beginning the process. Chris Herzog, CFWC President, shared a survey that she would like the membership to complete to assist the committee in developing this plan. You can gain access to this survey at cfwc.org, download the survey, complete, and send to Chris via email, by October 1st.



2nd Vice President Membership – Pat Huffman

At our Foothill District Meeting on Saturday, September 19, the Membership Team and friends put on a little skit that was well received, and others asked for a copy. Here it is, and may you have fun sharing with your members:

The Value of One Member

Ten little members standing in a line.... One disliked the president, and then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late. One forgot her promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven. One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix. One moved away, then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive. One moved away, then there were five.

Five devoted members vowed to attract more. One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree... 'Til one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members... What did they do? One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lovely members... our rhyme is nearly done... One joined a Bridge Club, then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue. Met with a neighbor, then there were two.

Two earnest members each enrolled one more. Doubled their number, and then there were four.

Four determined members just could not wait... 'Til each won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up 16 more. In another six verses, there will be **1,024**.

Source unknown, thanks to Terri Diehm of Oregon for sharing many years ago.

Every member matters. Every invitation counts.

STEAL THIS IDEA

Dallas Woman's Club • Dallas, Georgia

A membership comeback built through visibility, training, history—and action

In January 2023, the Dallas Woman's Club had just 7 members. By the end of that year, GFWC Georgia reported 48 members—and later local coverage reported more than 70. This was not one lucky membership drive. The club rebuilt visibility, invited the community into its story, trained leaders, created easy ways to serve, and turned public events into recruiting moments.

THE GROWTH STORY

7 members — January 2023 → **48** members — End of 2023 → **70+** members — Reported later

GFWC also documented an early surge: 4 members → 35+ members in just 6 months.

WHAT THEY ACTUALLY DID

1. **Built a real recruiting front door**
   Created a website and used it as a membership tool—not simply an archive.
2. **Held an Open House**
   GFWC Georgia specifically credited an Open House as part of the 2023 turnaround.
3. **Made their history a community cause**
   The "1921 Project" invited the public to share memories, preserve the historic clubhouse, and help with restoration.
4. **Turned public events into recruiting events**
   At the city's Spooky Shopping Night, a woman stopped to help—and joined the club.
5. **Used fun visibility that sparked action**
   Their Main Street pumpkin display inspired six women to submit membership applications.
6. **Made service easy to join immediately**
   A member activity table stayed filled with sign-up sheets for hands-on service projects.
7. **Asked Federation leaders for help**
   State leaders coached the board, provided Zoom officer training, and helped connect the club with local businesses.
8. **Invested in leadership development**
   Four members attended GFWC Georgia LEADS while the club was rebuilding.
9. **Created many ways to belong**
   Members could choose among multiple service areas, projects, committees, and community activities.
10. **Strengthened retention after recruitment**
    A members-only Facebook page and website area gave members access to contacts, bylaws, minutes, and club resources.

STEAL THE FORMULA: Be visible. Invite people in. Give them something meaningful to do. Train the leaders.

Steal This Idea highlights timely, relevant projects that members can bring back to their clubs and put into action. When a member steps forward to lead a new project, they do more than meet a current community need—they bring fresh energy, create new opportunities for others to participate, and help keep Federation responsive, visible, and strong.

Strengthening Federation



GFWC Federated East Valley Women's Club proudly participated in the GFWC International Day of Service on 9/26/26. The International Day of Service was established to help end domestic and sexual violence across the United States and internationally.

President Pat Huffman, 1st VP, Dean - Pat Borchard, Treasurer Michelle, Membership Co-Chair Shirley, Corresponding Secretary Beverly and members Carolyn and Rosie supported the effort by hosting a food drive at the Albertson's in Glendora on Saturday 9/26.

Shoppers generously purchased suggested food items to donate to the cause. FEVWC filled 4-5 shopping baskets of donated items, all of which will be delivered to House of Ruth in the coming week. Additionally, we were able to purchase $80 worth of Albertson's gift cards to be donated along with the food. These donations will benefit the House of Ruth, for those individuals who have experienced domestic violence and their children.

Special thanks to Carolyn and Pat B. for coordinating with Albertson's and their Corporate office to ensure we were able to participate in the GFWC International Day of Service.



GFWC LaVerne San Dimas Woman's Club in support of GFWC's National Day of Service donated $100 to The House of Ruth.

District Meeting Highlights

September District Meeting: Turning Ideas Into Action

Our September 19 District Meeting brought members together for an engaging and productive morning! The Fundraising Lab encouraged members to collaborate, exchange ideas, and develop actionable strategies for fundraising success and long-term sustainability. We celebrated SoCal Volunteers as they received recognition certificates from CFWC, explored fresh ideas for membership growth and engagement, and shared highlights from Area B. Throughout the morning, one message stood out: when we share ideas, learn from one another, and work together, we strengthen our clubs and our communities.













Looking Ahead

This section highlights upcoming district meetings, important dates, future newsletter topics, and key reminders clubs should be preparing for in the months ahead. From leadership planning and project deadlines to events and seasonal opportunities, Looking Ahead helps us stay informed, organized, and ready for what's next.

NEXT MONTH'S THEME - Open the Door

Coming next issue:

- Welcoming New Faces Into Federation
- Simple ways to make guests, prospective members, and new members feel they belong.
- Opening the Door to Meaningful Membership
- Helping members connect their interests and talents to service that matters.
- Sharing Your Club Story With the Community
- Practical ideas for increasing visibility and helping others understand who we are and what we do.

UPCOMING DISTRICT ACTION ITEMS - Clubs Should Be Preparing For:

October

- Review progress on your 90-day club action plan and adjust responsibilities as needed
- Engage members in fall service projects, membership activities, and leadership opportunities
- Promote club impact through local media, social media, and community partnerships
- Begin preparing for year-end reporting, holiday projects, and November/December activities

November

- Open the door to new members, guests, volunteers, and community partners
- Use the November 21 Open House to showcase your club, invite participation, and strengthen visibility
- Support the Toys for CHP drive and connect service projects to broader community needs

SAVE THE DATE - UPCOMING DISTRICT, CFWC and GFWC Events

October

- 3: GFWC La Verne-San Dimas Bunco & Brew
- 10: Area B Conference
- 24: GFWC Federated East Valley WC Bunco

November

- 21: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Foothill District Open House & Toys for CHP Drive – San Dimas Masonic Lodge
  - 9:00 - 11:00 am: Open House – Club displays, community outreach, refreshments, drawings, and toy collection
  - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Foothill District Business Meeting

Visit the CFWC Calendar & Resources and GFWC Official Website for updated meetings, programs, publications, and leadership resources.



[CLICK HERE](#) for Area B Registration form or visit cfwc.org



