



GFWC Big Rapids Newsletter



April, 2021

"Words have no meaning until they are put into Action."

Hello, Ladies,

What beautiful weather we have had to start April. I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy it. I am even looking forward to the April showers later this week...more flowers!

April is also a time to acknowledge the 50th Anniversary for GFWC-Big Rapids. We give thanks to all the women who have helped build this organization and their service to our community. We will be celebrating this event at our May banquet. It's hard to believe we are at the end of our year. Come and celebrate with us.

Ann



Guess who is turning 50 this year???

WE ARE!

At our meeting we will begin to celebrate our anniversary and continue at our May banquet.

Please wear your GFWC clothing to the meeting.



**Sending our care,
concerns and hugs
to:**

Jennifer Houttiker

Mary Sue Hansen

Joan Boroff



**GFWC Michigan
126th Annual Convention**

Saturday, April 24, 2021 9:00am

Via ZOOM

**\$10 Registration is required with
deadline is April 10**

Registration form is on the next page



**General Federation of Women's Clubs Michigan
126th Annual Michigan State Convention**



Saturday, April 24, 2021 - 9 am EDT / 8 am CDT

REGISTRATION FORM - Deadline April 10, 2021

(Please fill out one form for each member attending)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone number: _____

Club Name and Email: _____

Dress - Casual/Suffragette hats in the afternoon NO Meals - NO Travel - NO Hotel

Guest Speakers - Recognition - Door Prizes - Surprises and More!

Check entry to the right that represents your highest current position. Also, if first Convention.

- 1. Past State President or Jr. Director _____
- 2. Current Board of Dir. (elected position) _____
- 3. Advisory Board (an appointed position) _____
- 4. Club President (if not one of the above) _____
- 5. Club Member (appointed by Club President) _____
- 6. First Time Convention Attendee _____

Registration Fee: > total: \$10.00
(Convention link will be sent after Registration Fee is received)

Additional ways to help raise funds for the State:
50/50 am/50/50 pm: \$1 each or 6 for \$5 > total: _____

Coach Purse: \$5 each or 3 for \$10 > total: _____

Overnight Hotel Stay: \$5 each or 3 for \$10 > total: _____

125th Anniversary Ornament: \$10 each > total: _____

Grand Total: _____

Please make check payable to GFWC MICHIGAN and return this form postmarked no later than April 10, 2021 to: Connie Hopkins, Treasurer, 309 W. 6th St., Ewart, MI 49631. Questions - Connie: 231-734-3970/email: connlehopkins24@yahoo.com.

Please send names for Memorial Service to: Sherry Anderson/sherryanderson57@gmail.com

**Our Next meeting will be
at the ELKS and ZOOM**

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:30pm

**Carrie Franklund will send a link to allow you to
ZOOM the meeting if you choose.**

**Program presented by Environment CSP
Frank Mondrella will be speaking**



**WEAR YOUR GFWC CLOTHING FOR A
GROUP PICTURE.**

Bring your check to reserve your spot at our 50th Anniversary May Banquet. Information is on the next page .

Please bring any of these items to the meeting:

Completed Crocheted Mats

Can Pull Tabs

Batteries for recycling

Quarters or check for Heifer International

Ongoing Collection of Recyclable clean pop cans or bottles to help the Big Rapids Scouts camp fund — Drop donations at Sue Johnson's office. If possible it would be appreciated if you indicate how many items are in each bag.

Deadline for Collecting items for the Foster Child Suitcase project: books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags.

Deadline for Any Operation Smile projects that you have completed.



1970's

1990's

1980's

2010's

2000's

Today, 2021

Come Help Celebrate our 50 years of GFWC Volunteering!

Our annual May Banquet is going to be a great Celebration of our 50 years of GFWC Big Rapids! We'll reminisce about the many fun times and projects that we have had through the years as we have volunteered in our community.

Tuesday, May 11th 6:00pm
dinner served 6:30pm

Royal Grille, Canadian Lakes

We will be practicing Covid safety measures by dining at tables of 4 and 6 people per table. Masks are encouraged when not eating.

We will have a chicken piccata dinner with pasta marinara, asparagus, salad, desert, and beverage. A cash bar will be available. The cost is \$25/person. If possible, please bring your check to our meeting or send it to Dee VanHorn to reserve your spot. Deadline is April 30th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAGS Update

Just an update from Diane Long, E.D. of Project Starburst
The clients have been pleasantly surprised about receiving the birthday bags to help them celebrate upcoming family birthday.



Mats to be made for Homeless People

Look at the 8 sleeping mats that were made by our members. Thank you so much. Keep them coming! We know there are others making mats and look forward to accumulating more to share with the homeless. This is going to be an ongoing project, so keep crocheting! Once you have completed any mats, please get them to Pat and report your hours that you spent creating it.



We have received a big donation of bags that have been cut and are ready to be looped together. Anyone interested in helping with this, let Pat know. She will happily supply you with the strips.

If you would like to see a tutorial on making the mats, please go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr_WHW_tGSE

FOSTER CHILD SUITCASE Project

The deadline is here for contributions for items to fill our annual Foster Child Suitcase Project. Please get your donations to Sue Bean as soon as possible. Just a reminder, each suitcase will have:

Soft cuddly Blanket

****Reading Book or puzzle/coloring book**

(we are in need of teenage items)

Flashlight

Night light

Stuffed toy

****Wheeled Suitcase or duffel bag** to hold the items and enable the children to carry their personal items

Note: *** items are most needed



ENVIRONMENT CSP Spring Arrangements



Members of our Environment CSP created 22 beautiful spring arrangements to be given to special friends and shut-ins. What a wonderful gift which brought smiles to many.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

What's
Next?

At our meeting on April 11th: We will be able to **sign up for CSP committees**. Please consider which CSP you would like to serve on next club year.

Our **GFWC Big Rapids website** is up and running thanks to Carrie Franklund and Linda Telfer. Our website address is **GFWC-BigRapids.org**. Thank you Carrie and Linda!

Saturday, April 24th: STATE CONVENTION Mark your calendar!

Earth Day is coming Thursday, April 22nd. Be kind to our environment.

Highway Cleanup is Monday, April 26th at 5:30. Please let Sue J. know if you can come.

Arbor Day: is Friday April 30th . Plant a tree to help beautify our community. If you plant a tree or shrub, please let Sue J. know for reporting purposes.



**Please
Consider
Supporting
Guiding
Harbor
Auction**

Tickets are FREE!

Register here: <https://one.bidpal.net/ghspring2021>

ONGOING DONATIONS :

- Greeting Cards for all occasions
- Children book donations of nearly new books
- Bottle and Cans for BR Scout Fund
- Pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Used batteries for recycle
- Foster Child Suitcase items
- Used shoes for Soles for Souls
- Quarters or check for Heifer International
- Plastic grocery bags to be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless



UPCOMING PROJECTS:



Operation Smile Kits: Dee has distributed kits . Project runs from November thru April.

Foster Child Suitcase project: Collecting books, flashlights, night lights, plush animal, blanket, suitcases or duffle bags. Deadline April.

Creating mats from plastic grocery bags for the homeless . Get your finished mats to Pat Rossi.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

Project Starburst : Looking for a volunteer to pick up a weekly Friday evening donation of breads, etc. from Panera

Contact Diane Long at 231-79-5342 br@projectstarburst.org

