

RESOLUTIONS Proposed for Consideration by 2011 CFWC Resolutions Committee
Sharie Meyer, Chairman
Sharon Schneider, Kim Plater, Diana Smith

RESOLUTIONS TO BE AMENDED

011-043

MASS OUTDOOR BALLOON LAUNCHES (Convention 1990, Reviewed 1995, Amended/Reaffirmed, 2000, Amended/Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, ~~Many school groups and concerned groups celebrate their commitment to the environment launching several hundred balloons into the sky with a silk-screened environmental concern message; and~~

Whereas, ~~It has been discovered that many of these celebration Mass balloon launchings have the potential that those balloons may end up in the ocean, rivers and streams where they become a significant danger to marine life and waterfowl as they are ingested; and~~

Whereas, ~~So-called biodegradable latex balloons take an undetermined amount of time to degrade and Mylar balloons are virtually indestructible, and these balloons cause stress and blockage of the intestinal tract in *marine life and* wildlife which leads to weakness, starvation and eventual death; and~~

Whereas, ~~These balloons are hazards to electrical wiring causing outages, fires, personal injury and property damage; therefore~~

RESOLVED, ~~THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CONTINUES TO URGE THE BANNING OF MASS OUTDOOR BALLOON LAUNCHES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE HAZARDS, and further~~

RESOLVED, ~~THAT ALL CLUBS IN CALIFORNIA ARE URGED TO CONTACT THEIR LOCAL LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LAWS PROHIBITING MASS OUTDOOR BALLOON LAUNCHES~~

012-087

LIBRARY FUNDING (Convention 1995, substitute for above, Amended/Reaffirmed 2000, Amended/Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, ~~The General Federation of Women's Clubs has a long history of library support. with By the 1930s seventy-five percent of our nation's libraries being had been started by women's clubs as credited by the American Library Association; and~~

Whereas, ~~We share continued concern for our public libraries experiencing funding decreases, reduced hours, closed buildings and fewer libraries; and~~

Whereas, ~~We need the very best public, school and college libraries now; and~~

Whereas, ~~We acknowledge that in the information age, libraries help ensure that all Americans we have the information they we need to live, learn and work; therefore~~

RESOLVED, ~~THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS SUPPORTS LEGISLATION FOR BUILDING NEW LIBRARIES, FUNDING INCREASED HOURS FOR PERSONNEL, REPAIRING EXISTING FACILITIES, UPGRADING TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, AND ENHANCING STUDY CONDITIONS FOR LIBRARY USERS.~~

012-106

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (Convention 2000, Amended/Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, Every year in California many children are killed or injured while walking most going to and from school; and

Whereas, ~~Pedestrian fatalities account for a quarter of all traffic related fatalities while California spends around 1% of its federal transportation dollars on pedestrian safety; and~~

Whereas, ~~Assembly Bill 1475, passed and signed into law by the governor, directs a small but significant portion of federal transportation funds into The Safe Routes to School Program which will provides competitive grants to local governments to improve safety by installing new crosswalks, building bicycle paths and implementing traffic calming programs in neighborhoods around schools; and~~

Whereas, ~~Assembly bill 1475, while due to sunset in January 2008, has been renewed twice and may be renewed again, therefore~~

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS USES EVERY MEANS TO EDUCATE CLUBS AND COMMUNITIES ABOUT "A SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL GRANT" THAT CAN BE USED TO THE ELIMINATION OF ANY ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS AROUND CALIFORNIA WHERE THAT PRESENT A DANGER TO CHILDREN COULD BE REDUCED WITH FUNDING FROM "A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT" AND TO SEEK IMMEDIATE ACTION BY CITY MANAGERS OR THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

013-158

PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS FAMILIES AND THEIR PLIGHT (Convention 1992, Amended 1997, Amended/Affirmed 2001, Amended/Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, As there are no easy solutions to the plight of homeless families and their plight; and

Whereas, Homeless shelters provide only a temporary solution for the lack of adequate low-income housing (and these shelters are becoming institutionalized); and

Whereas, The Federal Government's 1987 Stewart B. McKinney Act (The Homeless Assistance Act) has provided over 44 billions of dollars, supplemented by financial assistance from State, County, City and local and private agencies, that which has been inadequate to solve the homeless plight throughout the Country, and

Whereas, ~~Figures from local agency surveys in 2005 indicate the Homeless numbers are increasing, therefore~~

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS GO ON RECORD IN URGING CLUBS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED BY FINANCIAL AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN THEIR LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS FAMILIES AND THEIR PLIGHT.

015-214

APPOINT WOMEN (Convention 1954, Reaffirmed 1974, 1990, 1997, 2001, Reaffirmed, 2006)

Whereas, *Women constitute approximately half the adult population; and*
Whereas, *A total of 30 women have held Cabinet-level appointments in the history of our nation; therefore*

RESOLVED, ~~THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGES APPOINTMENT OF LARGER PERCENTAGES OF QUALIFIED WOMEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF QUALIFIED WOMEN APPOINTED TO ON COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, DEPARTMENTS AND GRAND JURIES~~ **THE JUDICIARY.**

015-263

FIREARM POSSESSION (Convention 1997, Reaffirmed 2001, Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, ~~A law has been passed~~ *Legislation exists prohibiting anyone convicted of felony domestic violence from owning a gun; and*

Whereas, *All members of society should be required to abide by the law, including any law enforcement personnel officer who have has been convicted; therefore*

RESOLVED, **THAT THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS GO ON RECORD OPPOSING ATTEMPTS TO EXEMPT LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OFFICERS FROM THIS LAW; and further**

RESOLVED, **THAT MEMBERS BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THEIR U.S. AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO ANY EXEMPTIONS FROM THIS LAW.**

015-276

SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS (SVPs) AND INCARCERATION OF SEX OFFENDERS

(Convention 1996, Amended/Reaffirmed 2001, Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, ~~The GFWC California Federation of Women's Clubs has historically urged that parole and probation be denied to all sex offenders~~ *all sexually violent predators (SVPs) having previous records of sexual crimes and to remain confined until declared safe for society by the appropriate medical authorities; therefore*

RESOLVED, **THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS SUPPORTS THE USE OF THE CIVIL COMMITMENT PROCESS THAT PERMITS CONTINUED INCARCERATION FOR THE MOST HEINOUS OF SEXUAL PREDATORS. SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS (SVPs).**

015-317

~~**OPPOSED STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD**~~

(Convention 1991, reviewed 1996 Amended/Reaffirmed 2001, Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, *The founding fathers of the nation set up the District of Columbia to be an independent center for the seat of our federal government; and*

Whereas, ~~One of the reasons for this action is in the word "independent" which would preclude partisan leanings~~ *The U. S. Constitution does not grant the District of Columbia statehood or voting representation in Congress; and*

Whereas, ~~The American people have in the past rejected giving the city of Washington, District of Columbia, statehood with two senators and a representative~~
The only time that this issue has come before the voting public was in 1978 when Congress proposed the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment to the Constitution. It was not ratified; therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS, BELIEVING IN THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF AN IMPARTIAL SEAT FOR OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OPPOSES ANY EFFORT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO THAT OF THE 51st STATE.

015-345

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE AND ABUSED PERSONS (Convention 1996, Amended/Reaffirmed 2001, Amended/Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, Physical, emotional, *verbal, psychological*, and sexual abuse continues to increase within our society cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational and socio-economic lines and can cause emotional and behavioral disturbance, physical injury and death to children and adults; and

Whereas, Children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to become batterers or victims themselves than are children from non-violent homes; and

Whereas, ~~More than two-thirds~~ *The majority* of domestic elder abuse perpetrators are family members of the victim, typically serving in a care-giving role; and ~~it is estimated that the incidents of elder abuse that come to the attention of law enforcement or human services agencies are but the tip of the iceberg~~

Whereas, *It is estimated that the incidents of elder abuse are grossly underestimated. For instance, the U.S. Administration on Aging Elder Abuse suggests that only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse is ever reported;* and

Whereas, There continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for all victims of abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS SUPPORT LEGISLATION AND ACTIVELY PROMOTE PROGRAMS WHICH WILL:

1. IDENTIFY AT-RISK FAMILIES AND SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD, SPOUSAL OR ELDER ABUSE,
2. PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID AND SHELTER FOR THOSE WHO ARE FORCED TO LEAVE VIOLENT FAMILY SETTINGS,
3. PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR VICTIMS AND REHABILITATION FOR PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE,
4. PROVIDE PUBLIC AWARENESS EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING PREVENTION OF ABUSE; and further

RESOLVED, THAT MEMBER CLUBS BE URGED TO ENLIST THE HELP OF HOSPITALS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, POLICE, SCHOOL PERSONNEL, CHURCHES, COUNSELING SERVICES, SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND CLINICS *SHELTERS AND THEIR PROGRAMS* IN A UNITED EFFORT FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ABUSED PERSONS.

015-384

UNITED STATES FLAG AND NATIONAL ANTHEM ETIQUETTE (Convention 1990, Amended/Reaffirmed 1995, Reaffirmed 2000, Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, The Supreme Court of the United States by a 5 to 4 vote, has decided to allow the indiscriminate burning of the flag of the United States of America under the guise of First Amendment rights of free expression; and

Whereas, The decline in values of many Americans has led to a decline in patriotism and appreciation for traditional American beliefs as evidenced by the renditions of the National Anthem and *lack of respect during the renewal of the Pledge of Allegiance*; and

Whereas, These symbols *are recognized worldwide as representative* of the United States of America, ~~world-wide~~ and are loved, respected and revered by the American people and *who have been defended by its citizens them* in war and peace; and

Whereas, The United States Flag Code, Title 36, Chapter 10, United States Code, paragraphs 170-178 describe proper etiquette; and

Whereas, The members of the California Federation of Women's Clubs are distressed to see this decline in respect for our country's symbols; therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGES:

1. THAT THE CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DIRECT STAFF TO CREATE A TEACHING SYLLABUS TO BE INSTITUTED ANNUALLY IN EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA INSTRUCTING ALL STUDENTS IN PROPER NATIONAL ANTHEM AND FLAG ETIQUETTE.
2. THAT EVERY MEMBER CLUB DELIVER A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THEIR LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS, COLLEGE PRESIDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC TEAM OWNERS AND PRESIDENTS STATING THE OPPOSITION OF THE MEMBERS TO THE ABUSES OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND UNITED STATES FLAG, URGING THAT PROPER ETIQUETTE BE OBSERVED;
3. THAT THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS TAKE SIMILAR ACTION ON BEHALF OF ALL CLUB WOMEN IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CITIZENS.

015-401

ROSIE THE RIVETER MEMORIAL/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK (Convention 2001, Reaffirmed 2006)

Whereas, The National Park Department has established the Rosie the Riveter Memorial/World War II Home Front National Historic Park honoring women who helped in the war effort by working in the shipyards throughout the country; and

Whereas, The Rosie the Riveter Memorial/World War II Home Front National Historic Park is located in Richmond, California; and

Whereas Four other similar park sites are located at the Charleston Navy Yard in Boston National Historic Park in Massachusetts, Lowell National Historic Park in Massachusetts, Fort Vancouver National Reserve in Washington, and the National Liberty Ship Memorial in California; and

Whereas, *An estimated 18 million* women also contributed to the war effort by working in aircraft plants; textile mills; ordinance factories; *steel mills; foundries; lumber mills; offices, hospitals, daycare centers*; and other related defense industries; therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS SUPPORTS THE ROSIE THE RIVETER MEMORIAL/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK; and further
RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ENCOURAGES THE CREATION OF OTHER WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT MUSEUMS AND MEMORIALS HONORING WOMEN WHO WORKED IN ALL WAR EFFORT INDUSTRIES.

015-406

WAR ON TERRORISM (Convention 2006)

Whereas, Terrorist attacks against the United States, its government and its citizens have been so heinous, particularly the September 11, 2001 destruction of New York City's World Trade Center, the attempted destruction of the Pentagon, and the complete destruction of United Flight #93, that the United States has declared war on terrorism; and
Whereas, The government of the United States has created laws like the Patriot Act and new government posts, like the cabinet position of Homeland Security to make our country safe for its citizens; and
Whereas, The Constitution of the United States established certain civil liberties as a foundation for our individual freedoms; and
Whereas, There is conflict among our citizens and among government officials regarding the proper balance between security for our citizens and their civil liberties; therefore
RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS URGES OUR LEGISLATORS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE PROTECTION OF U.S. CITIZENS FROM ACTS OF TERRORISM A PRIORITY WHILE ALSO MAKING THE PROTECTION OF OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES WHICH CONTAIN OUR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS A PRIORITY FOR OUR FUTURE AS A NATION.

015-407

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VETERANS (Convention, 2006)

Whereas, Over ~~44%~~ 11% of our population over the age of 18 are civilian veterans, and
Whereas, ~~The current Iraq War has produced over 18,000 wounded and 8,000 of those are seriously wounded veterans~~ *In the global war on terrorism, non-mortal woundings as of March 10, 2010 total 36,906; and*
Whereas, ~~The latest wars in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq resulted in 40% of the Veterans suffering from Persian Gulf Syndrome and 15% suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome~~ *As of the end of fiscal year 2010, 437,310 veterans are receiving compensation for Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and*
Whereas, Over 600,000 homeless people are on the streets of America on any given night and 10% to 15% are veterans, and
Whereas, As of 2009, it was estimated that 26,618 veterans were homeless in California; and
Whereas, *The impact on family and community members are is not a part of the statistical data that results from returning veterans who are physically, mentally or psychologically impaired, but it is real; therefore*

RESOLVED, THAT THE GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS REQUESTS THAT THEIR MEMBERS CONTACT THEIR LOCAL VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION AND THEIR LEGISLATORS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO URGE PROGRAMS AND LAWS THAT WILL MEET THE CONTINUING NEEDS OF ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

015-408

SAFELY SURRENDERED BABIES: 72-HOURS LIMIT (Convention, 2006)

Whereas, ~~The Mother has already had nine month of pregnancy to consider her dilemma~~ *A mother considering surrendering her baby can be presumed to have had several months to consider her choice, and*

Whereas, There may be serious health issues in the initial 72 hours of an infant's life, and

Whereas, There is the possibility in the infant's initial environment for causing physical and emotional damage; the sooner the surrender the better, and

Whereas, Surrender for an older child presents emotional problems; therefore

RESOLVED, THAT GFWC CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS STRONGLY URGES THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE 72-HOUR LIMIT FOR SURRENDERING INFANTS.

[Note that the current 4th Whereas was previously the 2nd Whereas; the wording has not changed, just the position in the resolution.]

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REAFFIRMED

012-107 FUNDING OF K-12 SCHOOLS

015-285 JURY TRIAL REFORM

015-406 WAR ON TERRORISM

015-409 SAFELY SURRENDERED BABIES: STATEWIDE SITES

RESOLUTIONS TO BE RESCINDED

012-075 DRIVER TRAINING

[Rescind due to the reclassifying of the fund; it no longer is a feeder fund to support driver training.]