

GFWC JENNIE AWARD 2026-2028

HISTORY/ MISSION

The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for outstanding commitment to club, community and family. The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. Club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at the State/District of Columbia Federation, Regional and National levels for the Federation's highest honor. The Jennie Award was first given in 2006 during the GFWC Internals Past President Ernie Shriner's administration.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June". The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize Croly's spirit of independence, courage and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for States and Clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual personal excellence. Club presidents should consider utilizing the knowledge of club historians or members of long-standing for Jennie Award nominees.

JUDGING CRITERIA (per GFWC)

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- *Commitment to GFWC* – the nominee should have an outstanding record of success and achievement, not only in terms of her club's volunteer programs and projects, but also her role in a leadership position, her effort to build membership and promote the club to others, and her overall spirit of volunteerism. She should be kind, loyal and positive in her relationships with other clubwomen, and her commitment should be continuous, rather than a one-time occurrence.
- *Commitment to community* – Community service must address real community needs and concerns. This service should go beyond GFWC club activities and be carried out through other community organizations (e.g. schools, hospitals, an elected/appointed position, scouts, etc) and the workplace. Activities should reflect an innovative or unique approach to volunteer work.
- *Commitment to family* – Recognizing that families come in many different forms, the nominee might be a single parent, a grandparent raising grandchildren, an adult caring for an elderly relative, or an adult without children. The nominee should exemplify outstanding concern for the well-being, health, and welfare of one or more persons by providing aid and comfort on an ongoing basis, separate, and apart from club and community work.

DEADLINE

JUNE 1, 2027 – email nomination materials (1 per club) to CFWC Jennie Award Chairman, Vicki Holden at cfwcjennieaward@gmail.com. Deadline is certain, late entries will not be considered. Please note that nominations will be received by the State Chair anytime between March 1 and June 1, 2027.

Questions – email at above address or phone/text 562-305-5759

What Happens Next?

Once the nominations have been received, the CFWC Jennie Award Chair will arrange for them to be judged and a **California nominee** will be selected to advance to the next level.

- The CFWC Chair will submit the selected nomination to the **Region President by August 1, 2027.**
- The Region President will then review the nominations submitted by the State Federations within the Region and select **two nominees** to advance to GFWC. Those nominations must be submitted to the **GFWC Jennie Award Program Chair by December 1, 2027.**
- The **National Selection Committee** will meet in March/April 2028 to make the final selections. **One Jennie Award honoree from each GFWC Region** will be chosen.
- The eight National Jennie Award honorees will be recognized at the **2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan**, where they will be celebrated for their outstanding volunteer service.

**From Club to State...from State to Region...from Region to GFWC—
every nomination begins by recognizing one remarkable volunteer.**

JENNIE AWARD RULES

Please read the next page carefully – it is taken directly from the GFWC Club Manual and should be followed for the club's entry to be considered for judging.

A copy of the Jennie Award nomination form is included for your information. A fillable version of the application is also available at www.cfwc.org under FORMS. It is also available in the GFWC Digital Library in the Member Portal at www.gfwc.org

*****Club presidents should be mindful of first impressions and make the nominee's packet of supporting materials as professional as possible as it may be judged at the different levels by influential community leaders. *Also be advised that materials will NOT be returned.***

JENNIE AWARD RULES

Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria above for this award.

- The nominee must be a current member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Their tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive, not concurrent.
- The nominator must be a current member of the nominee's Club and State/DC Federation.
- GFWC Executive Officers (past or present) are not eligible for nomination.
- Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- Clubs must complete and submit ~~by June 1, 2027~~ **by June 1, 2028** the GFWC Jennie Award Nomination that contains no more than 25 single-sided pages total of required documents and supportive materials, including the following:
 - **Title Page** Cover sheet that could include basic information as:
 - GFWC Jennie Award Nomination 2026-2028 as heading.
 - State/District of Columbia Federation.
 - Picture (if desired).
 - **Letter of Introduction** The nominator provides information about the nominee that describes the reason for the nomination. The letter of introduction needs to be a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using a 12-point Arial font and one-inch margins on all sides.
 - **Official GFWC Jennie Award Nomination Form** includes narrative descriptions of the nominee's:
 - **Commitment to GFWC** Through involvement in activities. Maximum of 250 words.
 - **Commitment to Community** Participation in community groups and organizations, both volunteer and professional. Maximum of 250 words.
 - **Commitment to Family** To her nuclear or extended family. Maximum of 250 words.
 - **Digital color photograph** nominee no older than 5 years, (high-resolution/300 dots per inch or pixels per inch) submitted for use by GFWC.
Note: If the photo does not meet the required specifications, it will not be used.
 - **Clips or screenshots** two or three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects to which the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name).
 - **Letter of Endorsement** from the club president.
 - **Letter of Endorsement** from a representative of another organization.
- Submit all required documents and supportive materials in a digital format.
- Nomination packet, including all forms, supporting materials, and photographs, will not be returned.
- The 16 Region Nominees will be featured in the Spring 2028 issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*.
- One clubwoman from each of the eight GFWC Regions will be selected for national recognition as a GFWC Jennie Award honoree and is expected to attend the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.
- All eight national GFWC Jennie Award honorees will be awarded round-trip transportation to attend the June 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan.



Follow instructions in the Award Rules for completing the Nomination along with required documents and supportive materials. Please attach a Letter of Introduction with a maximum of 500 words, double-spaced, using 12-point Arial font, and one-inch margins on all four sides.

1. NOMINEE

Please note that the nominee must attend the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan, if selected as a national award winner.

Nominee Name

Mailing Address

City	State	Zip Code
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Phone	Email
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Club	Current State/DC Federation
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Year Nominee Joined GFWC

First State/DC Federation

Region

2. NOMINATOR/CONTACT PERSON

Nominator/Contact Name

Mailing Address

City	State	Zip Code
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Phone	Email
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3. COMMITMENT TO CLUB

Name(s) of project(s), duration, and results, if any, including leadership and positions held. *250 word limit*



4. COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Non-GFWC club service, names of the organization(s), titles held, unique approach to volunteer service. *250 word limit*

5. COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

Include examples separate and apart from GFWC club and community work. *250 word limit*

Clubs: Email the title page, completed nomination form, letter of introduction, photos, press clippings, letters of endorsement, and materials digitally by **June 1, 2027**, to your State/DC Federation President. Please note: materials NOT be returned.

Contact the national GFWC Jennie Award Chairman (Kathy Lewis, kmlew22@gmail.com) or the GFWC Programs Department with any questions: 1-800-443-GFWC or **Programs@GFWC.org**.