

GFWC MO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am so honored to be able to lead this organization for the next two years. My Executive Committee has diligently worked in planning the 2022-2024 administration. Teamwork will help create an atmosphere that will make our next two years a success. We belong to the largest volunteer organization in the world. GFWC Missouri has approximately 1,100 members. I want to share with you some of the opportunities to learn new things and help your own local communities.

My theme for the 2022-2024 GFWC MO administration is **BUILDING DREAMS THAT SPARKLE WITH HOPE**. The fleur de lis was used by the French as a decorative design or symbol. Its meaning is the lily flower and signifies light and life. When the French trading company led by Laclede and Chouteau founded St. Louis, the fleur de lis could be seen throughout the city. The three petals of the fleur de lis signified the convergence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in St. Louis. Settlers along the Mississippi built their new homes based on hope for a better life for their families. My symbol will be the fleur de lis.

If you travel down the Mississippi River to Memphis, Tennessee, you will find St. Jude Children's Research Hospital a short distance from the riverfront. More than 70 years ago Danny Thomas was a young entertainer with a baby on the way. Work was hard to find. He turned to the patron saint of hopeless causes and vowed: Show me my way in life, and I will build you a shrine. Soon Danny found work, but never forgot his promise. In 1962, St. Jude Children's Hospital opened its doors. Families never receive a bill. Each family has hope that their child will be able to attain their dreams with the aid of the treatments they receive at St. Jude. **GFWC MO Wagons of Hope Project** will help St. Jude patients travel between specialists throughout the hospital.

My second project will continue our work with our **GFWC MO Scholarship Funds**. After being a classroom teacher for 29 years and now a city librarian for six years, I emphasize that our children and young adults are our future. Our scholarships help worthy students attain their dreams.

I have two goals for this administration. The first goal is to increase membership. After the devastating affect COVID had across Missouri, we lost members and clubs. Membership is always our goal, but during these two years I would like to emphasize gaining and retaining members. Many times we do not brag about our accomplishments. Our members do good deeds because they are needed at a specific time and place. We need to promote our GFWC clubs to make other community members want to be a part of our organization. I want to encourage you to report new members so we can celebrate your new members. Hopefully, during the next two years we can see our membership continue a growth spurt.

My second goal is to increase communication. If your club has done a project that you are proud of, please let us know so we can pass the idea on in our newsletter. Your project may spur ideas for other clubs throughout the state to do a similar activity. Please be sure to send information to our Missouri GFWC Facebook page. I know your clubs do many activities that will interest other club members.

Thank you for putting your trust in me and our great GFWC organization.

Amy Boone

2022-2024 GFWC of Missouri President