



# GFWC OF MISSOURI, INC.

Greetings from your GFWC of Missouri President: After a great deal of planning and preparation with our fantastic Executive Committee, I am enthused to represent GFWC of Missouri and to launch the 2020-2022 administration. It is exciting to be a member of the largest women's volunteer service organization in the world that stands for the importance of diversity and inclusion. Our Missouri State network of clubs represents more than 1,200 Clubwomen. We have projects for the greater organization and at the state level. Missouri clubs can also identify needs in their communities and make positive impacts. We have incredible members!



My theme for the 2020-2022 administration is "Lighting the way in Missouri and Beyond through GFWC" and my symbol is a lighthouse. Over 300 years ago, on September 14, 1716, the Boston Light began shining forth, becoming America's first lighthouse. More than 1,000 lighthouses were built along the country's dangerous coasts to safely guide mariners from near and far. The lighthouse played an indispensable role in helping the colonies win the War for Independence, building the nation and contributing to its economic success. The dramatic history of America's lighthouses is about people and a diverse cast of characters. These include Founding Fathers, imperiled mariners and inspiring leaders, but, the most important actors were the male and female lighthouse keepers who faithfully kept the lights shining. GFWC Clubwomen of Missouri can be that beacon of light for our state and beyond by promoting improvements through volunteer service, projects and inviting others to join us. Our team spirit and kindness to others helps to reinforce and strengthen our organization

Two of my state projects for this term will be to raise funds and do club service projects for Missouri Ronald McDonald House Charities and to continue to support our state scholarships. There are seven Ronald McDonald House Charities in Missouri and several Ronald McDonald Family Rooms that service families while their children are hospital patients. My husband Bob and I have been volunteering at Ronald McDonald Houses in St. Louis City and County for the past 20 years. We usually prepare and serve meals for the families and often lend an ear to listen to their heartfelt stories of their children's illnesses. Many of us have already been contributing aluminum pull tabs and old keys to Ronald McDonald House Charities which we will continue. We also will be encouraging clubs to contribute to our seven state scholarships that are awarded to students to help them continue their education. There will be opportunities to contribute to both of these projects at our state conventions.

**LIGHTING THE WAY IN MISSOURI AND BEYOND THROUGH GFWC...** When we work together, nothing is impossible.

*Judy Gustafson GFWC of Missouri President 2020-2022*

