

The Collect

Mary Stewart, a Colorado school principal, wrote the words to the Collect in 1904 as a personal daily prayer. Mary titled her poem "A Collect for Club Women" when it was first published because she felt it might have special appeal to clubwomen. According to Mary, "The first women's organization to hear or use the Collect or to print it in its year books and biennial reports was the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

During GFWC President Dorothy Houghton's administration (1950-1952), the American Home Department published Mary's history along with an interpretation of the text and suggestions for using it in GFWC programs.

The words for the Collect are as follows :

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment
and always generous.

Let us take time for all things;
make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is
The little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all,
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
To be kind!

GFWC California Federation Of Women's Clubs



Know your
CFWC & GFWC
2020-2022

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

In 1889 to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Sorosis Club of New York City, a Call was sent out to 97 Women's Clubs to meet for a Convention on March 18, 19, & 20th 1890.

61 clubs responded by either sending delegates or letters.

Some of the ladies attending were;
Julia Ward Howard, Belle Grant Armstrong,
Charlotte Emerson Brown,
Ellen G. McClain of CA, the
Woman's Club of San Francisco,
& Phoebe A Hearst of CA

"The Clubwoman was found to be generally wife and mother: alive to means of culture, interested in all means of progress, and eager to seize and multiply opportunities for individual and collective advancement " said J.C.

Croly in her Book *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*.



CFWC has 18 districts

Area A

Alameda
Loma Prieta
Mount Diablo
Redwood
Shasta
Sutter

Area B

San Gabriel Valley
San Joaquin Valley
Tierra Adorada
Yosemite

Area C

Los Cerritos
Orange
Marina
Sierra -Cahuenga

Area D

De Anza
Palmar
San Bernardino
Southern



CFWC has 4 Areas



Areas are a useful part of the membership Team. Each Area has a Vice President that sits on the CFWC State Executive Committee & is elected by the members of that area only. The Second Vice President voted on by the entire state is in charge of this committee. The reason there are four areas is that gives the membership of California 5 votes. When the membership committee gets together & needs to vote on items the Second Vice President can break a tie. Only California has areas & districts combined.



So Started
the General Federation of Women's Club. The meeting in March was the beginning of a new nationwide movement that the world had never seen before. Club Women now have power.



The First GFWC Emblem was called the Raising Sun. As you can see from this photo the pin was lovely. Here is an other quote directly from JC Croly's book- the History of Women's Clubs. "Mrs. Croly & Mrs. Brown had already chosen blue as the Federation color; the dawn, with the sun's rays, as the symbol, & 'Unity in Diversity' as the motto. Our principal effort was to obtain a design, & put it into a form that would be good...yet within the reach of every club woman."

"What is the advantage of the pin? Well, it is a symbol, & therefore stands for an idea- the comprehensive idea of its motto. It emphasizes our intellectual and spiritual kinship with other club women, & excites a feeling which in time deepens & becomes permanent." (page 135)

This second emblem was approved in 1920. The design shows a crusader' shields coming out of darkness meaning enlightenment coming from the blackness of the back ground. The rings round the words stand for eternity. The 3 colors of the shield are red for our courage, white for our purity and blue is constancy.

(For more read in your Yearbook in the opening pages)



“Unity in Diversity” the GFWC Motto is taken from a speech given to the delegates at a GFWC organizational meeting of 61 clubs by Ella Dietz Clymer.

Check out more GFWC history on the GFWC website gfwc.org. If you are a member of a GFWC/CFWC club be sure & sign on to the GFWC Members Only Portal. It will give you access to history, the GFWC Club Manual and the GFWC Market place. A place to buy pins, booklets, t-shirts & all things GFWC.

Did you know that our Facebook page is fun?

Check out GFWC California Federation of Women's Clubs on Facebook. Take a look. Every Sunday our CFWC President Pam posts a new video.





GFWC California Federation of
Women's Clubs
Mission Statement

The California Federation of Women's Clubs, (CFWC) is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an International Women's Organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service for more than 130 years. The Clubs of CFWC are located throughout California with the primary purposes of carryout charitable service programs. Providing leadership opportunities, and enriching the lives of its members through personal growth.

Official name :

GFWC California Federation of
Women's Clubs

We are also known as
GFWC California

We were organized in Los Angeles on
January 18, 1900.

We were admitted to General
Federation of Women's Clubs
(GFWC) in of May, 1900

The GFWC California Federation of
Women's Clubs State Motto is
"Strength United is Stronger"

The GFWC California Federation
of Women's Clubs Official
Flower is the Gold Rose



General Federation of Women's Club's
Official Song is
"America The Beautiful "

All of the federated states and
GFWC meetings end with us singing
"Let there be Peace on Earth"
as a tradition started after
& because of 9-11-2001

The California Federation of Women's Club

Emblem is from 1903 &
designed by Bernice Scoville.

The Pin is to recognize each other as
members & create a group unity. It
is designed to be a pin or a drop
on a necklace.



The wings represent higher thought
and reaching skyward. The torch
represents learning & higher education
and the principles of American citizenship.
The Blue ring encircles all of these and
speaks of an unbroken circle of strength
and loyalty to our principles .

Our motto

"Strength United is Stronger" is
being tested by today by the chain of
events all over the world. It has once
again proven that our state club women
are strong & working together. It
was first chosen in 1902.
There is Strength is Unity.

Organizational Tree

We start on top with

The Local Clubs
(235 in California)



Local districts
(18 in California)



Areas
(4 in California)



GFWC California Federation
of Women's Clubs



Regions
(8 in the USA)

We are in the Western States Region
with 11 other States



The General Federation of Women's
Clubs, International
(Our mother organization)