



GFWC FLORIDA
presents

2025 FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Serve with Heart, Lead with Honor

SARA DESSUREAU

**GFWC FLORIDA
PRESIDENT**

RACQUEL STURGIS

**GFWC FLORIDA
DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS**

SEPTEMBER 26 – 28, 2025

**ROSEN PLAZA
ORLANDO, FL**

REGISTER AT WWW.GFWCFLORIDA.ORG





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GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENT

Sara Dessureau



LETTER OF INVITATION

It's wonderful to be together again for our Fall Board, united under this year's theme: "Serve with Heart, Lead with Honor." When each of us first joined GFWC, we couldn't have imagined the paths our journeys would take. Over the years, we have seen many administrations come and go, but our hearts have remained in the same place—dedicated to serving our communities and Living the Volunteer Spirit.

We stand on the shoulders of extraordinarily strong women—past and present—who have given of themselves for women's suffrage, for equal opportunity, in service to our country, and in recognition of the power and dignity of who we are. Their courage and dedication have shaped us into the organization we are today, one that supports causes of every kind and makes a difference wherever we are needed.

At this Fall Board, you will have the opportunity to attend workshops designed to inspire, guide, and provide insight into the future direction of our Federation. It is my honor to serve alongside each of you and to represent all that you stand for. I am proud to join you in charting the path forward for our Federation—grounded in the values we hold dear.

In duty, honor, and service,

Sara Dessureau

GFWC FLORIDA DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS

Racquel Sturgis



LETTER OF INVITATION

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I invite you to the GFWC Florida Fall Board of Directors' Meeting! This weekend will be filled with numerous workshops designed with you in mind—guaranteed to leave you energized and eager to share new ideas with your club members. Many of these workshops will be co-hosted by our Junior and Women's Club chairmen. You can also look forward to a First-Time Attendees Workshop and a fun Photo Scavenger Hunt to help you navigate the convention hall. Be sure to stop by the Club Scrapbooks display and see if your favorite takes home the prize!

As always, you'll find plenty of fundraising baskets for a chance to win exciting prizes.

This year, we are once again offering the convenience of pre-purchasing your fundraising tickets directly on your registration form. Pre-purchased tickets can be picked up at the Junior Fundraising table—while you're there, check out our t-shirts, tumblers, bracelets, and other merchandise supporting my Director's Project: Building Families. You will also have the opportunity to make a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital—together, we can help create a future where no child dies of cancer.

At our last GFWC Florida Convention, we were inspired by the heartfelt testimony of Rob Scheer, founder of Comfort Cases, and learned firsthand why these special cases are so essential. We pledged to purchase 100 Comfort Cases, and at this Fall Board meeting, all members will have the chance to help assemble them during our Packing Party. On Sunday, during the Junior Luncheon, we will welcome Sundy Goodnight, Senior Director of Partnerships with One More Child, Jacksonville. All assembled Comfort Cases will be donated to One More Child locations in Jacksonville and Miami. Thank you for helping us reach—and exceed—our goal!

Racquel Sturgis

SATURDAY LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

“Leading the Wav” *Laurie Robinson Sammons*



Laurie Robinson Sammons is an author, educator, and advocate whose work is rooted in resilience, restoration, and the relentless pursuit of purpose. With a distinguished career in educational leadership, Laurie has spent decades mentoring students, training educators, and shaping school systems to better serve both hearts and minds, as a curriculum specialist, adjunct professor of Education, and national consultant to schools all over the world. Her ability to weave truth, compassion, and actionable wisdom into every role has made her a trusted voice in both academic and personal growth spaces.

She is the author of three books—The Handbook for Unstoppable Learning, One Story; Many Voices, which speaks to educating the public about domestic violence and sexual exploitation; and From Mourning to Dancing, a deeply moving book born out of personal loss that captures what we gain in life's most painful seasons. Her work now reaches readers and audiences across the country, helping others move through grief and into lives marked by purpose, healing, and joy.

Whether Laurie's speaking in packed auditoriums, facilitating faith-based study groups, mentoring leaders, or advocating for survivors, Laurie's message is clear: Pain may shape us, but it does not define us. Life is to be lived, and there is still dancing to be done. Laurie and her husband are residents of Estero, Florida, parents of five adult children, and grandparents of seventeen who they deeply cherish. Her life is guided by the powerful words of Kahlil Gibran: “Let us be so connected to one another in life, that when one weeps, the other tastes salt.”

SUNDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

“We Are Family” *Sundy Goodnight*



Sundy Goodnight is an active, single foster parent and mommy to her four adopted daughters, Eilyn, Emmie, Eisley, and Emmaya from the foster care system. Despite often taking multiple foster placements, she finds time to blog and serve as Senior Director of Partnership Development at One More Child in Jacksonville, FL where she enjoys traveling, writing and spending time with Jesus.

Sundy is a passionate speaker and advocate for children, speaking to over 400 audiences about the vulnerabilities that face children. She is a Heart of Excellence winner and serves on the One More Child Trauma Informed leadership committee. She previously served in leadership roles with Mercy Ministries and Stop Child Trafficking Now, and has served on short-term missions in the Philippines, South Africa, Ukraine, Colombia, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic, as well as volunteered for numerous humanitarian organizations.

Contact Sundy at: sundy.goodnight@onemorechild.org

You Are Invited to *Register Now*

Registration Fee: \$50

Deadline for Early Registration WITH meals: September 2, 2025

Late Registration: \$60 (no meals)



ALL ABOUT MEALS

Friday Dinner +\$55

Saturday Lunch +\$50

Saturday Dinner +\$55

Sunday Lunch +\$54

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Click Here to Book Hotel](#)

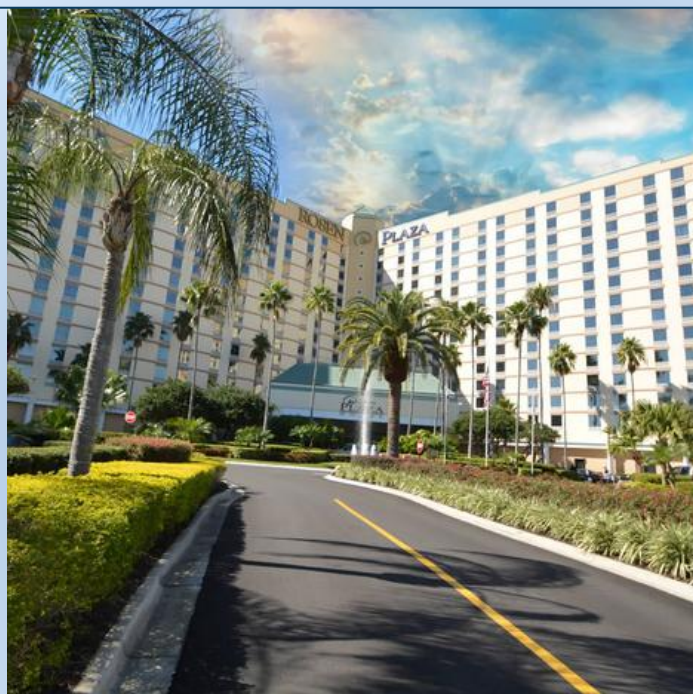
[Click Here to Read FAQ](#)

ALL ABOUT HOTEL

Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK HOTEL](#)

\$145/Night for Two People
\$20 Per Additional Person Per Night



Registration Details

Register Online Now

You can register for one person at a time
([Please Click Here to Register](#)).

BASIC INFO NEEDED FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING:

- Name, Email, and Phone Number
- Emergency Contact Information
- Meals Attending
- Food Allergies
- Veteran Status (if applicable)

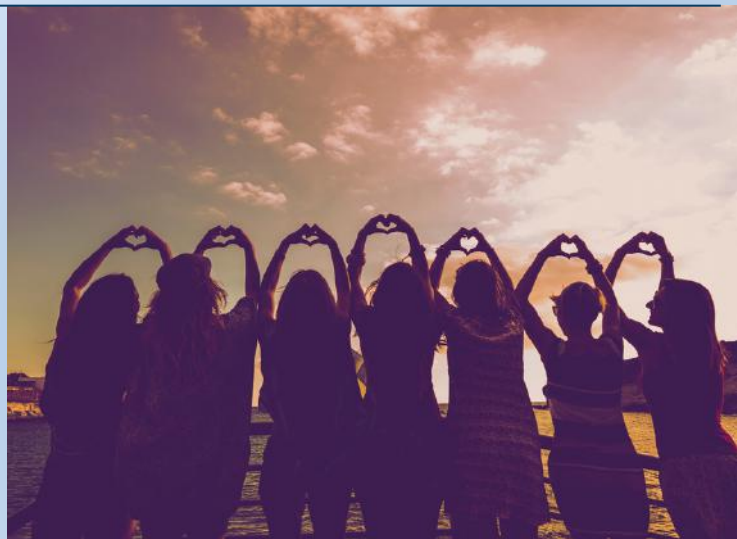
OPTIONAL ADDITIONS AVAILABLE IN REGISTRATION:

- \$10 Donation to Wear Jeans All Weekend
- Enter your Club in the Scrapbook Contest
- Buy Junior Fundraising Tickets

OTHER DETAILS

Hotel is booked separately by
[CLICKING HERE](#).

Program Ads can be purchased and
approved online by [CLICKING HERE](#)
or by mail.



Tentative Schedule

Thursday, September 25, 2025

GFWC Florida Executive Committee Meeting

3pm

Sara Dessureau, GFWC FL President

Friday, September 26, 2025

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| LEADS | 8:30am - 3:00pm | Mary Powell & Sarah Anthony, GFWC FL LEADS Chairmen |
| Vendors | 1:00pm - 5:30pm | |
| Junior Fundraising | 1:00pm - 5:30pm | |
| Registration | 2:00pm - 5:30pm | Tammy Kesky, GFWC FL Registration Director Diania Pimenta, GFWC FL Credentials Chairman |
| CSP Chairmen Meeting | 3:00pm - 3:45pm | Laura Connelly, GFWC FL First Vice President |
| District Directors' Meeting | 3:00pm - 3:45pm | Terry Reese, GFWC FL President-elect |
| ByLaws Committee Meeting | 3:00pm - 3:45pm | Kelly Holmes, GFWC FL ByLaws Chairman |
| Junior Executive Committee Meeting | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Racquel Sturgis, GFWC FL Director of Junior Clubs |
| Junior Planning Meeting | 4:00pm - 4:45pm | Racquel Sturgis, GFWC FL Director of Junior Clubs |
| Committee Chairmen Meeting | 4:00pm - 4:45pm | Sara Dessureau, GFWC FL President |
| District Membership Chairmen Meeting | 4:00pm - 4:45pm | Candi Aubin, GFWC FL Second Vice President and Membership Chairman |
| Election Committee Meeting | 4:00pm - 4:45pm | Shirley Pardon, GFWC FL Election Chairman |
| Scrapbook Registration | 4:00pm - 5:00pm | Cindy Jones, GFWC FL Scrapbook Chairman |
| Reception | 5:30pm - 6:15pm | By Invitation Only |
| Dinner | 6:30pm - 7:45pm | |
| GFWC FL Board of Directors' Meeting | 8:00pm - 9:30pm | Sara Dessureau, GFWC FL President |
| District Get Togethers | 9:45pm - 11:00pm | "Getting to Know You" Bingo |

Tentative Schedule

Saturday, September 27, 2025

| | | |
|--|-------------------|---|
| GFWC Florida Past Presidents/Past DOJC/EC/JEC Breakfast | 8:00am - 8:45am | By Invitation Only |
| First Time Attendees | 8:00am - 8:45am | Dara Bergdoll, GFWC FL Member-at-Large |
| Registration Opens | 8:00am - 5:00pm | Registration Closed During Meal Functions |
| Vendors | 8:00am - 5:00pm | |
| Junior Fundraising | 8:00am - 5:00pm | |
| Scrapbook Registration | 9:00am - 9:45am | |
| President's Project Workshop | 9:00am - 9:45am | Ronda Carney, GFWC FL President's Project Chairman |
| Junior Businesss Session | 9:00am - 9:45am | Racquel Sturgis, GFWC FL Director of Junior Clubs |
| Scrapbook Judging | 10:00am - 10:45am | |
| Communication/Newsletter/Yearbook Workshop | 10:00am - 10:45am | Lisa Trocki & Jessika Johns, GFWL FL Communications Chairmen Melissa Mulligan, GFWC FL Junior Communications Chairman |
| Juniorette Advisors' Meeting | 10:00am - 10:45am | Jasdeep Cook, GFWC FL Juniorette Advisor |
| Fundraising Workshop | 10:00am - 10:45am | Jena Staly, GFWC FL Fundraising Chairman Andrea McDowell, GFWC FL Junior Fundraising Chairman |
| Membership Workshop | 11:00am - 11:45am | Candi Aubin, GFWC FL Second Vice President and GFWC FL Membership Chairman Sherry Clendinen, GFWC FL Director-elect of Junior Clubs and GFWC FL Junior Membership Chairman |
| GFWC Florida Past President's Meeting | 11:00am - 11:45am | |
| Grants & Scholarships Workshop | 11:00am - 11:45am | Haadhaq Lawrence, GFWC FL Vice Director of Junior Clubs Carla Connelly, GFWC FL Junior Finance Director |
| Scrapbook Viewing | 11:45am - 12:15pm | |
| Luncheon | 12:00pm - 1:30pm | "Leading the Way" Laurie Robinson Sammons |
| GFWC Signature Program Workshop | 1:45pm - 2:30pm | Tamika Thomas-Simpson, GFWC FL Signature Program Chairman Amber Treat, GFWC FL Junior Signature Program Chairman |
| Principals of Presidential Duties | 1:45pm - 2:30pm | Teddy Hulse, GFWC FL Parliamentarian |
| GFWC Florida Past DOJC Meeting | 1:45pm - 2:30pm | |
| Pop-up Marketplace, CSP Hands On Workshop | 2:45pm - 4:15pm | Click Here to Check Presenters |
| "Lead with Confidence" Training for Club Presidents (Woman's and Junior Clubs) | 3:00pm - 4:30pm | Terry Reese, GFWC FL President-elect Laura Connelly, GFWC FL First Vice President |
| Scrapbook Pickup | 4:00pm - 5:00pm | |
| Reception | 5:15pm - 6:00pm | By Invitation Only |
| Processional Forms | 6:15pm | |
| Dinner | 6:30pm - 9:00pm | "Serve with Heart, Lead with Honor" |
| Fun Night | 9:15pm - 11:00pm | Packing Comfort Cases |

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, September 28, 2025

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Meditation | 8:00am - 8:45am | Kathy Messersmith, GFWC FL Chaplain |
| Vendors | 8:00am - 11:00am | |
| Registration | 8:00am - 10:00am | Registration Closed During Meal Functions |
| Junior Fundraising | 8:00am - 11:00am | |
| Treasurer/Finance Workshop | 9:00am - 10:00am | Candy Jackson, GFWC FL Treasurer Elizabeth Fisher, GFWC FL Finance Officer Carla Connelly, GFWC FL Junior Finance Director |
| Youth Protection Workshop | 9:00am - 10:00am | Teddy Hulse, GFWC FL Parliamentarian |
| Woman's Club Reporting Workshop | 10:15am - 11:00am | Laura Connelly, GFWC FL First Vice President |
| Junior Clubs Reporting Workshop | 10:15am - 11:00am | Haadhaq Lawrence, GFWC FL Vice Director of Junior Clubs |
| Lunch | 11:15am - 1:15pm | "We are Family" Sundy Goodnight |



Adjournment

of the GFWC FL 2025

Fall Board 2025

Tentative Schedule

Juniorettes at Fall Board

Friday,
September 26,
2025

- Arrival and Registration for Juniorettes
- 6pm | Dinner in Juniorette Suite
- 8pm | GFWC FL Board of Director's Meeting and the Federation of Juniorette Clubs
- 9:30pm | Get Together in Juniorette Suite

Saturday,
September 27,
2025

- Breakfast | Personal choice
- 9am | Junior Business Session
- 10am | Juniorette Advisor Meeting (JASM and Reporting discussed)
- 11am | Workshops (Membership and Grants/Scholarships)
- Noon | Lunch in Ballroom
- 2pm | Workshops (CSP Pop-Up Marketplace, Presidents w/Terry Reese, GFWC FL President-elect, Signature Program, etc.)
- 4pm | Set-up and Work the Fundraising Table for Item Pick-up
- 6pm | Dinner in Juniorette suite
- 9:15pm | Junior Fun Night

Sunday,
September 28, 2025

- Breakfast | Personal choice
- 9am - 10:45am | Workshops
- Pickup by 11am



All About The Event

Extra Details

DISTRICT HOSTESSES FOR MEALS

Friday Dinner | District 2
Saturday Lunch | District 1 and 3
Saturday Dinner | District 4
Sunday Lunch | Juniors

CSP WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

WOMAN'S CLUB AND JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB CHAIRMEN

Arts & Culture | Julia George and Ilene Narvaez
Civic Engagement & Outreach | Jennifer Hawkins and Xylina Green
Education & Libraries | Georgia Browning and Betty Medina
Environment | Judy Quail and Nicole Hahn
Health & Wellness | Lee Kraus and Kay Taylor

WHAT TO WEAR

- Casual Attire
 - \$10 Donation To Wear Jeans All Weekend
 - Colors: Red, White, and Blue
-

WHAT TO BRING

Your GFWC Spirit &
Donations for National Day of Service to Benefit
Harbor House ([CLICK HERE](#)).





PROGRAM ADS

Fall Board 2025

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE ONLINE

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

ALL ADS ARE IN COLOR

FILES SHOULD BE HIGH-QUALITY "CAMERA-READY", AND SUBMITTED AS
A .JPEG OR .PNG ONLINE OR BY EMAIL TO:

LINDA VOTAPKA AT CORRESPONDSEC@GFWCFLORIDA.ORG

- BACK COVER \$275 (ONLY ONE AVAILABLE)
- INSIDE BACK COVER \$225 (ONLY ONE AVAILABLE)
- INSIDE FRONT COVER \$200 (ONLY ONE AVAILABLE)
- FULL PAGE AD \$150
- HALF PAGE AD \$125
- QUARTER PAGE AD \$75

Club Name

Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

☐

Back Cover \$275 (One Available)

☐

Full Page Ad \$150

☐

Inside Back Cover \$225 (One Available)

☐

Half Page Ad \$125

☐

Inside Front Cover \$200 (One Available)

☐

Quarter Page Ad \$75

Mail Check with Above form to GFWC Florida, 4444 Florida National Drive, Lakeland, FL 33813. or [Click Here to Complete Online](#)

GFWC FLORIDA IS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS AND IS A REGISTERED 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. GROUP EXEMPTION #3220. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT. PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

CLICK HERE

To Register



Apply TODAY!

GFWC FL LEADS* 2025

*Leadership Education and Development Seminar

Friday, September 26, 2025 | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Deadline: September 10, 2025

The spark is already
inside you...



Ignite the Leader Within!

**Information and applications are now available on
the GFWC Florida website in the Member Center.**

**GFWC Fall Board of
Directors Meeting**
The Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819

Chairmen:
Mary Powell
Sarah Anthony

leads@gfwcflorida.org

GETTING TO KNOW YOU BINGO

◆ DISTRICT GET TOGETHER ◆

\$10.00 per card provides you the chance to get to know
your fellow club and GFWC sisters to win prizes!!

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025



After the BOD Meeting in the Rosen
Plaza Ballroom



Contact Katy Freitag if you have any questions | 954-804-5474
DD13@GFWCFlorida.org



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
FLORIDA



Fun Night

for a Cause



When: Saturday night

immediately following dinner

What: Packing comfort cases



Comfort Cases are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system.

[SEE WHAT'S IN EACH CASE](#)

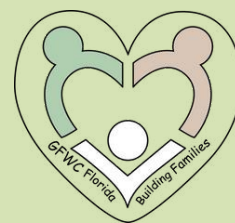


and

**ONE
MORE
CHILD**



... together building families...



GFWC JUNIOR FUNDRAISING BASKETS: FAMILY FUN



Create baskets that would make YOUR family happy. This theme is all about Family, Family Fun and Family First

Wine baskets, Reading baskets, Money baskets, game baskets...The ideas are endless. If YOU Love it - they will too!!



Please drop off your basket to the Junior fundraising table. Refer to program for hours.



All GFWC members in good standing are eligible to volunteer to work at the Junior Fundraising table.





Family Fun

Basket Rules:

1. Visit Junior fundraising table to purchase your opportunity Tickets. (You can pre-purchase. See below)
2. Tickets are on one sheet, with one number to remember; no need to write your name.
3. The winning opportunity tickets will be drawn 30 minutes prior to start of Juniors lunch.
4. Winning numbers will be on a list at each table during the Junior lunch.
5. The ticket must be presented and basket claimed within 10 minutes of the conclusion of lunch.
6. Unclaimed baskets will be given to a donating club representative if present, during same timeline, otherwise it is given to a district director who is present directly after the 10 minute pickup window.

You will also be able to pre-purchase your fundraising tickets when you register.

All payments are considered a donation, there are no refunds. Proceeds from the Junior fundraising table support Junior scholarships, Youth Leadership awards, and One Voice for Children grants.





PREPARING FOR *National Day of Service*

Harbor House of Central Florida is the only state-certified domestic violence center in Orange County, and we're here 24/7 to provide safety, support, and hope. Survivors can turn to us for a confidential hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy and free attorneys, counseling, safety planning, relocation assistance, and programs tailored for children and teens. We also work directly with schools to educate and prevent future violence, because stopping the cycle starts early. Our mission is to break the cycle of domestic abuse through empowerment, advocacy, education, and community partnerships. Our vision is a future where every life impacted by abuse is transformed with safety, healing, and opportunity.

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL 4PM ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 AT FALL BOARD**



We are Grateful FOR YOUR DONATION

Here are the items survivors need most:

| | |
|--|--|
| Baby Needs Strollers Baby wash Diapers (<i>sizes 5,6 needed most</i>) Pull Ups (<i>sizes 2-6</i>) Baby Wipes | Deodorant Brushes/combs/ hair products Ethnic hair products |
| Cleaning Needs Bleach Lysol wipes Bleach Spray cleaner Hand and dish soap Disinfectant cleaners | Personal Care (<i>cont.</i>) Body wash Bar Soap Maxi pads/tampons Liquid hand soap Toothpaste Toothbrushes (<i>child size</i>) |
| Personal Care Underwear (<i>new; all sizes women and boys and girls</i>) Socks (<i>new; all sizes women and boys and girls</i>) Sports bras (<i>new; S-XXL</i>) Body lotion | Miscellaneous Pillows (<i>new</i>) Towels (<i>new</i>) Hand towels/wash cloths (<i>new</i>) Silverware (<i>new or gently used</i>) Dish sets (<i>new or gently used</i>) Pots and pans (<i>new or gently used</i>) Large hot/cold bags Sheets and blankets (<i>new, full/twin</i>) Shower curtains |

For more information please email:
Donate@harborhousefl.com

Due to the needs of our residents and the limitation of our space we do not accept:

- **Used Car Seats** • **Cars and Boats**
- **Clothing** (*Clothing can be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store; mention Harbor House and our residents will receive vouchers to purchase clothes*)
- **Furniture/Appliances/Garage Sale Items** (*these bulk items may be donated to our community partner Mustard Seed Orlando or Annabel's Closet in Oviedo*)

708 E Colonial Drive, Suite 202 • Orlando, FL 32803



WE CANNOT WAIT

To See You

AT THE GFWC FLORIDA 2025

Fall Board of Directors' Meeting

SEPTEMBER 26 – 28, 2025

**ROSEN PLAZA
ORLANDO, FL**

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE](#)

