



*Lead, Encourage, Inspire*

## LEADERSHIP: LEARNING ABOUT YOUR LEADERS 2018-2020 - PART 3

®CATHY JONES, 3<sup>RD</sup> VP & PEGGY WILSON, RECORDING SECRETARY



# *Meet Cathy Jones, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President*



**Who Am I?** I guess I'd use these labels to characterize my life: Christian woman, daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, educator, club member, and leader. Let me explain why...

My love story began when I was sixteen. I met Verlin Jones for the first time quite by accident. We'd both grownup in Macon and even attended the same elementary school as children, but our paths had never crossed until one hot June day on the beach at Daytona. A few months after our introduction, we started dating and have been together ever since. We'll celebrate our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September.

We started our married life in Athens to continue our college education. And yes, we bleed red and black and bark proudly on Saturdays in the fall! After my husband graduated from the University of Georgia's Law School, he joined a large firm in Macon. A few years later, he was hired as litigator for a small firm in Vienna. He now has a private practice and serves as city attorney for several surrounding municipalities. Although it was a bit of a culture shock, we enjoyed the slow pace of small town living. It was a great community to raise our two children.



We are now "empty-nesters." Our son, Todd, and his family live in Savannah. He is an environmental specialist, working for Dulany Industries. Presently, his wife, Michelle, is a stay-at-home mom, although she has previously worked in banking. Our grandson Jackson is a seventh grade Honor Roll student at Calvary Day School who enjoys reading and baseball. Jocelynn, age 2, is a busy toddler, who keeps everyone on their toes.

Our daughter, Beth, followed in her father's footsteps and chose the law as her profession as well. Her educational journey started at UGA and ended at the New England School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. We are very happy that she returned to Georgia to practice law, rather than remaining in Yankee territory. Currently, she is a senior trademark attorney for Kilpatrick, Townsend and Stockton in midtown Atlanta. She enjoys sporting events and traveling.

I've been teaching all my life. It started with my make-believe class of Barbie dolls who always listened attentively and never gave me any discipline problems. My formal education included a Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in Early Childhood Education, a Master's from Georgia Southwestern College in ECE and Gifted Certification, and a Specialist in Educational Leadership from Columbus State University. During my career, I taught kindergarten, third and fourth grades, as well as gifted resource for elementary and high school. After moving into administration, I served as Director for a stand-alone Pre-K school housing five classes of four-year-olds and twelve staff members. Then, I was named principal of a brand new elementary school with 100 staff members and over 800 students. As you can imagine, that was quite an adjustment! After five years as principal, I was transferred to the central office and finished my career as Director of Federal Programs. I retired after 36 years in the public school system. But, as they say: "once an educator, always an educator." So, I'm still teaching today in our adult and children's Sunday school classes.



I began my Federation journey in May of 1977. As the new lawyer in town's wife, I was asked to attend a meeting of the Vienna Jr. Woman's Club. I guess everyone was curious as to who I was and whether I would fit into small-town-USA life. I must admit that I didn't know what to expect from a Jr. Woman's Club, but I was hopeful to meet people and have opportunities to get involved in my newly adopted community. I was not disappointed! The girls in the club immediately embraced me and I was invited to join. They put me right to work! Since joining my local club, I have served in every elected office and chaired all six community service programs. My membership in Vienna Woman's Club led to District and State meetings, conventions, appointments, and elected office. Currently, I hold the record for the most longevity in the Vienna club, but there are four others who joined right after I did. The Fab Five have stuck together through thick and thin. We have made a pact to continue our Federation work even if we have to come in wheelchairs.

I'm so excited about the opportunity to serve as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of GFWC Georgia! My goal for the next two years is to help clubs engage members in actively participating in local, district and state initiatives that will strengthen and build our organization. In the words of Jim Rohn, "Whatever good things we build end up building us." I have certainly found that to be true through my membership in GFWC Georgia. These experiences and the lifelong friends I've made along the way have been part and parcel of my life. Without them, I don't think I would be who I am today.

My father was drafted into the army in World War II just before I was to be born. A few weeks before I was to come into this world, he came home on furlough, but I was a stubborn baby and was not born until the day after my father left to go to Germany. For the next eighteen months, I was coddled and pampered by my mom, grandparents, several aunts that lived with my mom and me. Finally, my dad came home, and I was in for a rude awakening when mom's family moved to their own place.

I grew up on a farm in northeast Alabama. My parents taught me about hard work and what it meant to be self-sufficient. Living on a farm meant everyone had to work from daylight to dark especially in the summer and fall. At an early age, I learned to drive a tractor even though I could not change the gears without jumping up and down on the clutch. Not only did I learn to drive a tractor, I learned how to drive everything that was related to farm work.

I lived on the farm with my parents until I graduated from high school. Neither one of my parents were fortunate enough to have the advantage of a good education; therefore, they impressed upon me how important it was that I go to college. Then off to Jacksonville State College I went.

Never did I dream that I would find my true love at college. Thomas and I got married after our first year of college, but we both managed to graduate. After graduation, we moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina where we both taught, and our son, Neal, was born. We stayed in South Carolina for three years, but it was just too far away from family. Then we moved to Georgia where we both taught. For the next 33 years I taught in Clayton County Schools. During this time I went back to West Georgia College to earn three masters degrees: Early Childhood Education, Middle School Education, and Educational Administration. During my years of teaching, I was honored as the Teacher of the Month, Teacher of the Year from Adamson Middle School, and was inducted into the Teacher Hall of Fame for Georgia. After retirement, I worked with teachers without education degrees as well as student teachers for a university.

## *Meet Peggy Wilson, Recording Secretary*



Shortly after my retirement, I became a doting grandmother of an amazing grandson, Nathan. Then along came our little granddaughter, Ashley that I adore. They both are the apple of their grandparents' eyes. Thomas and I spend many hours traveling to see Nathan play baseball, and Ashley play soccer. What else could we do with our retirement?

I have been a member of Morrow Civic Woman's Club for over 25 years where I have been active in several different capacities. Not only have I been active in my club, I have participated in the district and state levels. It is with great pleasure that I am still able to give back to my community through my club work and church activities. Here I am wearing my "Red Nose", getting ready to help end child poverty! Hope everyone has a red nose ready to shout out to others that ending child poverty is a priority with GFWC Georgia.

