**ELLA F. WHITE ENDOWMENT FUND**

**REPORT TO GFWC GEORGIA DISTRICTS**

**FALL, 2020**

What do you know about Ella?

The Ella F. White endowment fund was established in 1913. The preliminary groundwork for the fund was laid during the administration of Mrs. Ella F. White, President of the Georgia Federation of Women’s Clubs 1911-1913. The fund ensures that the GFWC Georgia State Office is well equipped and funded. After Mrs. White’s unexpected death while visiting a club in Augusta, the fund was named in her memory. We remember with gratitude the members of that time and the foresight they had to protect the welfare of our state federation.

Currently we draw $32,000 per year from the interest earned on that fund over time, which we use to support the operations of our state office. Please keep in mind that if we did not have this fund, our current dues would need to be at a minimum of $20 more per member each year (in addition to our current dues and fundraising efforts). So, you can see how those lovely women so long ago are still helping us today.

It is now our duty to ensure that this fund continues to exist for future members of GFWC Georgia by the actions we take now. Here is how we can help:

* Help increase membership – 2% of our net annual dues is added to the principle of this fund each year.
* Club contributions of $25 are requested on state dues vouchers each year. At one time all clubs participated in these contributions, however many clubs have dismissed this action in past years and the total amount of our club contributions has fallen sharply.
* Individual contributions of any amount have been given by some of our very generous members. If you have been one of these members, we sincerely thank you and we truly appreciate your support. It is a very satisfying feeling to support our federation in such a lasting way and we hope other members will be inspired to participate in this way as well.

All clubs are encouraged to support the Ella F. White Endowment Fund by educating your members on the importance of this fund for the operation of our State Office. We also encourage clubs to submit a report on your Ella activities to compete for the Carolyn W. Friedlander Award which is a silver tray presented to the club which best promotes the Endowment Fund. Be creative, have fun, and send your reports!

Further information about this committee can be found in the GFWC Georgia Yearbook, pages 182-183.