Public Issues

Resolution Adopted - January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Abolishment of Pornography

Whereas, Pornographic materials are so readily available; therefore

Resolved. That the GFWC-New Hampshire strongly urges its member clubs to use every available legal means to combat pornography by:

- 1. Educating its members and the public about the problem of pornography and its effects on society.
- 2. Participating in the United States Postmaster General's action program by promptly returning any objectionable or pornographic material received through the mail including the covering envelope to the local postmaster.
- 3. Encouraging cooperation among and between law enforcers and Internet Service Providers to combat the distribution and possession of child pornography.
- 4. Supporting the strict enforcement of existing laws and the creation of new laws where needed.
- 5. Strongly supporting and cooperating in the prosecution of those who violate pornography laws, especially those dealing with children

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Abused Persons

Whereas, Physical, emotional and sexual abuse continues to increase within

our society cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical

injury and death to children and adults; and

Whereas, There continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling

services for all victims of abuse; therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to enlist the

help of hospitals, doctors, educators, lawyers, police, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of

abuse and treatment of abused persons.

Abused Persons (Mid Winter Meeting, January 24, 2009)Presented by Public Policy Chairman, Mary Lou Kelly

WHEREAS, Physical, emotional and sexual abuse continues to increase within our society cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury and death to children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Persons who witness violence, or are directly victimized by it, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and

WHEREAS, Many states have effective laws on only certain specific areas of abused persons; and

WHEREAS, Many state laws and legal remedies designed to protect victims of abuse are applied inconsistently; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for all victims of abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire supports legislation and actively promotes programs that:

- 1. Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal and elder abuse
- 2. Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings
- 3. Provide treatment, support and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse
- 4. Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges Congress to fully fund legislation that supports victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges its member clubs to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, educators, lawyers, police, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.

Resolution Adopted – January 1998 Amended, January – 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH

Child Safety

Whereas, Children are at a significant risk from unintentional injuryrelated death and disability; and

Whereas, Injury rates vary with a child's age, gender, race and socioeconomic status; and

Whereas, Many childhood injuries are preventable; therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire supports research, education, public policy, and product engineering advances that help to

prevent childhood injuries; and further

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to sponsor

and promote community child safety programs and educational

programs for parents and other caretakers of children.

Resolution Adopted January 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Crime Prevention

Resolved,

That the GFWC-New Hampshire calls upon its member clubs to join their efforts with that of all organizations and groups to examine the crime situation in their respective communities and to examine the resources available to prevent crime, and to plan and initiate programs of effective action to combat crime.

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Driver Education

Whereas, Many people in the United States are injured or killed by motor

vehicle accidents caused by human error; and

Whereas, Defensive driving courses have been shown to assist drivers in

reducing both accidents and traffic law violations appreciably;

therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire supports driver education and

urges its member clubs to contact local legislators and school officials to retain or implement driver education within the school

system; and further

Resolved That the GFWC-NH urges its individual members to participate in a

defensive driving course and its member clubs to sponsor such

courses for the benefit of their communities.

Resolution – Adopted May 11, 2000 Annual Meeting, The Inn at Hampton, Hampton, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Drunk/Drugged Driving

WHEREAS, Alcohol/drug related traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for young people and a leading cause of death for all ages; and

WHEREAS, Concerned persons are demanding permanent solutions to the problem of drunk/drugged driving; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges is member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update and strictly enforce state laws regarding alcohol/drug sales and drunk/drugged driving under the influence; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges its member clubs to cooperate with other organizations in supporting community-based alcohol/drug programs/projects; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges its member clubs to support the enactment and strict enforcement of laws which guarantee:

- 1. Administrative license revocation.
- 2. Immediate arrest and speedy trial of offenders.
- 3. Tough, standardized penalties assessed by the courts.

Resolution - Adopted May 2002 **Annual Meeting** Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Election Procedures

The GFWC-New Hampshire recognizes that to effect the greatest Whereas,

efficiency in operation it is necessary to periodically review methods and procedures in the election of the President and Vice President

of the United States; and

The devotion of long periods of time to a political campaign is not Whereas,

necessary to acquaint the public with the issues and to clarify the positions taken by candidates on issues in a nation where radio, television, news media, internet and rapid transportation are readily

available: and

The majority vote of the electorate does not necessarily prevail Whereas,

under the present procedures of the Electoral College in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States; therefore

That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges that political parties and Resolved

candidates conduct election campaigns with dignity, and further

That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges the Federal Elections Resolved

Commission (FEC) to study and make recommendations for modern,

efficient, and equitable election procedure.

Resolution – Adopted January 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, N.H. Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury

- Whereas, Programs to educate and prevent fires and to protect against fire related injuries in homes, hotels, and places of public accommodation are vital; and
- Whereas, Fire causes death, injury and disfigurement to many people each year; and
- Whereas, The use of smoke detectors and flame-resistant fabrics provides protection against injury from fire; therefore
- **RESOLVED,** That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges its member clubs to:
- 1. Support the adoption, enforcement, and updating of adequate fire inspection laws.
- 2. Promote an educational campaign on the protective value of smoke detectors and flame retardant materials.
- 3. Work for the enactment of laws that require all merchandise to be labeled "flammable" or "non-flammable."



General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire



RESOLUTION

- Whereas, the United States flag is a hallowed and integral symbol of the United States of America, unique among our traditional national emblems; and
- Whereas, as a reflection of our nation's heritage, the flag is the one national symbol that represents our country; and
- Whereas, the flag has served as our nation's banner during periods of peace, war, and domestic turmoil; and
- Whereas, the flag has persevered as a symbol of unity, justice, and national resolve; and
- Whereas, the flag represents, to a vast majority of Americans the hope, freedom and values that we hold dear; and
- Whereas, the flag deserves respect, care and protection from deliberate acts of desecration which strike at the heart of our national loyalty; and
- Whereas, there exists a Citizens Flag Alliance, a non-partisan group of diverse American organizations and individuals dedicated to seeking adoption of a constitutional amendment;

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire, on this day, January 25, 1995, agrees to support the goal of passing an amendment to the United States Constitution, restoring to the states and to Congress the power to enact laws to protect the nation's flag from intentional acts of desecration; and to join the Citizens Flag Alliance.

Signature

Resolution – Adopted January 23, 1997 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, N.H. Presented by the Resolutions Committee

N.H. Highway Safety

- Whereas, Nearly 5000 people were killed in truck related accidents in 1996; and
- Whereas, Longer and heavier trucks, including triple long trailers, are unsafe and would impose additional highway maintenance and construction costs in states and towns in which they operate; and
- Whereas, Nationally, 90% of the population is opposed to expanded operation of triple long trailers; and
- Whereas, These trucks have no place on New Hampshire's overcrowded, winding roads; therefore
- **RESOLVED,** That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges its member clubs to support the Northern New England Safe Roads Coalition; and further
- RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges its member clubs to support a letter writing campaign thanking Senator Robert Smith for his past efforts to keep New Hampshire highways safe for all motorists and urging him to take a leadership role in maintaining the current freeze on truck size and weight limits; and further
- **RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Robert Smith.

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Historic Preservation

Whereas, Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of history shape

a nation's identity; and

Whereas, Historic landmarks contribute to the economic, social and

cultural well-being of communities; therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to record

the history of and help preserve historic landmarks and artifacts.

Resolution – Adopted May 15, 1997 Annual Meeting, Ashworth-by-the-Sea, Hampton Beach, N.H. Presented by the Resolutions Committee Submitted by the Warner Woman's Club

Resolution to restore February 12 and February 22 as National Holidays

- Whereas, The term "Presidents' Day" conveys very little meaning and detracts from the homage due two of our greatest Americans, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington; and
- Whereas, Reverting to the dates February 12 and February 22 is not a political, religious, or racial issue, therefore
- RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges its member clubs to support the reinstatement of February 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and February 22, George Washington's birthday, as National Holidays; and further
- **RESOLVED,** That a copy of this resolution be sent to our New Hampshire Congressmen.

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Humane Treatment of Animals

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs – New

Hampshire has always condemned cruel and

inhumane treatment of animals; and

Whereas, Incidents of cruelty to animals are continually published; therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to support

the vigorous enforcement of state and local prevention of cruelty

to animal laws.

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Identity Theft

Whereas, The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that identity theft, the stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes, is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States; and

Whereas, Identity theft is an invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history; therefore

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, its serious ramifications, and the importance of and methods for protecting personal information.

Adopted - Mid-Winter meeting 2012 Amended Mid Year Meeting, 2014

Inattentive Drivers (Public Issues)

WHEREAS, Motorized vehicles are powerful machines requiring the full and undivided attention of drivers; and

WHEREAS, There are countless distractions that take a driver's attention away from operating a motor vehicle, including mobile phone use, texting, using in-vehicle technologies and portable electronic devices; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Safety Administration, in 2009, nearly 6,000 people died and half a million people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving an in attentive driver; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire supports efforts which aim to eliminate distractions while driving in an attempt to save lives and reduce costs associated with crashes caused by inattentive drivers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire urges relevant government agencies to statistically record crashes stemming from inattentive drivers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire strongly supports enforcing existing laws and new legislation prohibiting inattentive driving; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire supports legislation creating more punitive fines for the inattentive driving of motor vehicles.

Resolution – Adopted January 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, N.H. Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Juvenile Justice

- Whereas, in many juvenile court jurisdictions in this nation adequate detention and probation services do not exist; and
- Whereas, Some courts have no place to detain a child awaiting a hearing except the adult county jail; and
- Whereas, Each year children are held in these jails in contradiction of the law and to their physical, mental, and moral detriment; and
- Whereas, Indications based on recidivism rates are that sufficient rehabilitation is not occurring in juvenile training schools or institutions where juveniles are committed; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire continues to:

- 1. Work for adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane facilities.
- 2. Support the concept of reserving detention as a last resort, while emphasizing help for children within their own homes whenever possible.
- 3. Support and help provide alternative living situations such as group and foster homes with adequate programs.
- 4. Work for elimination of the practice of holding juveniles in adult jails through the establishment of regional detention facilities for those children requiring secure detention, and for adequate shelter care.
- 5. Support the establishment of expanded youth service systems and local Youth Service Bureaus which advocate and offer community-based programs of counseling, tutoring, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, employment services, recreational programs, youth advocacy and involvement of youth as volunteer resources in community-based crime prevention programs.
- 6. Support school dropout prevention programs.

Resolution Adopted January, 1998 Amended January, 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting, Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH

Latch Key Children

Whereas, There are millions of children under twelve who are considered

latch key children who let themselves in the house after school

and are alone until their parents come home; and

Whereas, These children regularly contend with fear, boredom, loneliness,

and dangerous situations; therefore

Resolved. That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs:

1. To support educational programs to inform latch key children and their parents of basic safety and emergency guidelines.

2. To provide and support after school programs.

3. Encourage employers to provide on-site child care facilities.

Resolution Adopted January, 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Missing Children

Whereas, Millions of children are missing from their homes; and

Whereas, Thousands of children are abducted by strangers as well as parents each year and are placed in grave danger; and

Whereas, Neither parents nor local law enforcement agencies have the resources to mount large search efforts; therefore

Resolved. That the GFWC-New Hampshire supports legislation to increase federal support for local efforts to find missing children; and further

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to work within their communities:

- 1. To mount an FBI-approved campaign to fingerprint children
- 2. To create immediate community awareness of those children who are reported as missing.
- 3. To work with public and private agencies to educate parents and children about safety measures to safeguard against abduction.
- 4. To establish designated neighborhood safe houses.

Adopted January-1998 Resolution Replaced January- 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting, Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH

Personal Safety

Personal Safety is a national and international concern; and Whereas,

Violent crimes continue to occur; and freedom from fear of bodily Whereas, harm and the need for social order is a fundamental right of every human being: therefore

That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to work Resolved, actively in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies by forming neighborhood watch groups, to insure improved protection

of all persons within their communities; and further

That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to educate Resolved,

their members abut the importance of personal safety and the

awareness of personal dangers.

Resolution – Adopted May, 2002 Annual Meeting Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Political Campaign Finance Reform

Whereas, The escalating costs of political campaigns prohibits many candidates from attaining office and undermines the allegiance of elected officials to all citizens; and

Whereas, Reform of the campaign finance system is central to people's insistent demand for change; therefore

Resolved, That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges the enactment of legislation to curb unchecked campaign donations and restrict campaign spending; and

Resolved That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to network with other organizations in Support of political campaign finance reform.

Prison Reform (Mid Winter Meeting, January 24, 2009) Presented by Public Policy Chairman, Mary Lou Kelly

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that punishment alone is not a deterrent to crime; and

WHEREAS, Use of modern methods of incarceration could develop responsible, law-abiding citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges its member clubs to encourage prison boards and administrators to take advantage of every possible resource in order that prisoners, regardless of gender, may be provided with and make use of:

- 1. Psychological evaluation and psychiatric treatment, when indicated
- 2. Adequate medical treatment
- 3. Remedial education and vocational training
- 4. Life skills training
- 5. The opportunity for spiritual guidance
- 6. Drug and alcohol abuse treatment
- 7. Preparation for returning to their communities; and further

RESOLVED, That efforts be made to provide adequate follow-up services upon release of prisoners in order to assist them in their full adjustment as productive members of society.

Resolution Adopted – January 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Runaway Youth

Wheres,

Runaway youth are at a high risk of suffering from serious health problems, long-term homelessness, early pregnancy, substance abuse, and HIV infection; therefore

Resolved

That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its member clubs to:

- Become involved in intervention and prevention services which target youth and families at highest risk for homelessness, substance abuse, and other serious problems.
- 2. Work with established community programs that provide services to youth and families or to create them.

Resolution – Adopted January 22, 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting, Merrimack Hotel, Merrimack, N.H. Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Whereas, Sexual exploitation of children may cause permanent psychological and physiological damage; and
- Whereas, Many sexually exploited children, as young as eight years old, are runaways; and others even as young as three years old are provided by their parents or guardians for sexual exploitation; and
- Whereas, The billion-dollar pornography industry's newest growth area is child pornography; and
- Whereas, Children are not always capable of protecting themselves from sexual exploitation; therefore
- RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire shall study and demand enforcement of existing laws concerning sexual exploitation of children and actively initiate and support new legislation where needed; and
- RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire shall encourage and support awareness programs that are designed for a child's understanding of sexual exploitation so that he/she can communicate with a responsible adult if a problem exists and to deal better with the emotional trauma if he/she has been abused; and further
- RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges the adoption of laws which will provide that any proven involvement with the production and sales of explicit sex pictures of minor children, or the use of children in live performances exhibiting sexually-explicit conduct or for the purposes of prostitution or any other sexual exploitation of children, shall be considered a felony with mandatory minimum prison sentences and fines for convicted individuals.

Public Affairs Department

Trafficking in Persons (Mid Winter Meeting, January 24, 2009) Presented by Public Policy Chairman, Mary Lou Kelly

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of State:

- Trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are
 Typically forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual and/or labor exploitation; and
- 2. Trafficking in persons is among the fastest growing criminal activities; and
- 3. Annually, at least 700,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked worldwide, including 50,000 persons into the United States; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire urges its member clubs to:

- 1. Educate members and the public about the serious problem of trafficking in persons
- 2. Advocate for the support and protection of victims
- 3. Advocate for the prosecution of exploiters; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire supports law enforcement coordination between countries; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire strongly supports the enforcement of existing laws and the creation of new where needed.

Resolution -- Adopted January 28, 2012 Mid Winter Meeting Presented by Resolution Committee

United States Postal Service (Public Issues)

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service delivers billions of pieces of mail each year, which is approximately half of the world's card and letter mail volume; and

WHEREAS, A commercially and financially viable United States Postal Service remains vital to the American economy; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that an efficient and economical postal service be provided, which is consistent with the general welfare and responsive to the interests and the needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, The public has a right to expect prompt and safe delivery of all types of mail entrusted to the United States Postal Service; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire urges the United States Postal Service to work to ensure prompt, safe, economical delivery of mail entrusted to them; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs - New Hampshire commends the United States Postal Service for implementing special postage stamps that benefit charitable causes and encourages the continuation of this program.

Resolution Adopted - January , 1998 Amended, January , 2005 Mid-Winter Meeting Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Volunteer Liability Protection

Whereas, Volunteers, who in good faith, perform their volunteer duties may be subject to civil liability; and

Whereas, The threat of civil liability may discourage volunteer service; and

Whereas, The Volunteer Liability Protection Act of 1997 provides that volunteers may offer their services without determent of the potential for liability actions against them; and

Whereas, Legislation on state levels may need reforming to protect volunteers for liability unless willful or criminal misconduct can be shown; therefore

Resolved, That the GFWC-New Hampshire and its member clubs support the reform of tort laws in all states to protect volunteers from civil liability.

Resolution – Adopted January, 2008 Mid-Winter Meeting Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Voter Registration and Voting

- Whereas, Eligible voters often fail to register to vote in elections; therefore
- **Resolved,** That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire promotes education on the importance of voting and the electoral process; and
- Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire urges its member clubs to participate in credible voter registration drives; and further
- **Resolved,** That the General Federation of Women's Clubs New Hampshire encourages its members to register and vote in local, state, and federal elections.

Resolution Adopted May, 2002 Annual Meeting Presented by the Resolutions Committee

War Veterans

Whereas, The GFWC-New Hampshire is deeply concerned with all problems pertaining to war veterans; and

Whereas, Following every military conflict, millions of veterans are confronted with the problems accompanying transition from military to civilian life; and

Whereas, The need for volunteers in veterans' hospitals to aid and assist patients is vital; therefore

Resolved, That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its members to actively support legislation that would aid in the rehabilitation of all veterans, regardless of gender, and further,

Resolved, That the GFWC-New Hampshire urges its members to support and participate in volunteer programs in the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Manchester, NH; the Veterans Administration Medical Center, White River Junction, Vt; and the New Hampshire Veterans Home, Tilton, NH

Other

Resolution – Adopted January, 2008 Mid-Winter Meeting Presented by the Resolutions Committee

Use of the term Chairman

Whereas, Parliamentary Law has a language all its own; and

Whereas, The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* provides that the word "chairman" be used to designate presiding officers who are not presidents or vice-presidents; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs – New Hampshire encourages its members to use the term "chairman" instead of "chairperson", "chairwoman" or any other term.