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(updated August 2024)

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####  STANDING RULES GOVERNING RESOLUTIONS

1. All resolutions to be presented at State Board of Director's or Annual Meeting of the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs must be cleared through the Resolutions Committee.

1. The subject matter of all resolutions must be germane to the interest or work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and be statewide or national in scope.

1. Resolutions may be presented by one of the following:
	1. The Executive Committee
	2. The Board of Directors
	3. A per-capita dues paying club
	4. A chairman of a Department, Division, or Committee of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs.
	5. The Resolutions Committee
	6. A District Federation
2. Resolutions, signed by the sponsor, must be in the hands of the Resolutions

Committee at least 90 days prior to the State Board of Director's or Annual Meeting at which they are to be considered. After being considered and edited by the Resolutions Committee, the Resolution shall be incorporated within the Call to the Meeting at which they will be considered.

1. Only emergency Resolutions shall be accepted after the Call to the State Board of Directorts or Annual Meeting is issued. Emergency resolutions shall be in the hands of the State Chairman or Resolutions Committee before the close of the first day's session.
2. The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee shall refer each proposed Resolutions to the Department, Division, or Committee to whose work it is germane. The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee shall also submit copies of all proposed Resolutions to the State President.

1. Resolutions referring to bills before the Congress of the United States, the State Legislative Assembly, or to some legal document shall be based on the principals involved.

1. Resolutions, upon adoption, shall become the policy of the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs for the 4 years following their adoption.

Responsibility for carrying out the intent of the Resolutions falls upon the State President and to the chairman to whose work they are germane. The automatic life of a Resolution shall be 4 years. Reaffirmation of Resolutions shall be considered only if necessary to safeguard the principals involved or if a change of circumstances warrants further action.

**Adopted April 21, 1954, Amended February 7, 1968, (Delayed meeting of January 31,**

**1968), Amended May 11, 1972, Amended October 3, 2015, Amended May 2019** , **Reaffirmed May 2022**

##### ARTS AND CULTURE

######  010-010 DISABILITY AND THE ARTS

**WHEREAS**: Persons with special needs to have opportunities to participate in programs that demonstrate the value of the arts in the lives of all citizens and that provide for the integration of persons with special needs into the mainstream of society, therefore:

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage and promote arts programs in which persons of special needs may participate.

**Adopted May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998, Reaffirmed May 2005, Reaffirmed May 2009, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  010-020 MUSEUMS

**WHEREAS:** Museums preserve and interpret the cultures and mores of peoples as depicted in artifacts and art objects:

**WHEREAS:** The American Association of Museums considers education as the primary purpose of museums, therefore

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support, maintain and contribute to the establishment of museums to ensure preservation of cultures and enrichment of present and future generations.

**Adopted May 2000, Amended May 2007, Reaffirmed May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Reaffirmed May 2019 , Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  010-030 SUPPORT OF THE ARTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

**WHEREAS:** The arts enhance life in all its dimensions;

**WHEREAS:** Art explores the realm of expression, imagination and creation resulting in new knowledge and

**WHEREAS:** Participation in the arts can improve math, science and reading skills; and

**WHEREAS:** Art serves as a vehicle for communication not always achieved by presentation of historical and scientific facts: therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges that arts in the broadest sense be preserved and integrated into curricula of preschools, elementary and secondary schools and as many aspects of community life as possible: and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges it member clubs to encourage preservation, promotion and funding for all arts, whether visual, performing, or in written forms in schools and communities.

**Adopted May 2000, Amended May 2004, Amended May 2008, Reaffirmed May 2012, Reaffirmed May 2016, Amended Oct 2020** , **Reaffirmed May 2024**

##### ENVIRONMENT

######  011-010 FOREST RESOURCES

**WHEREAS:** The United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, committing the country to working cooperatively within the international community to reduce emission of green house gasses to 1990 levels; and

**WHEREAS:** Concentration of carbon dioxide (C02), the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, can be limited by increasing the amount of annual uptake by natural systems, such as forest reservoirs; and

**WHEREAS:** Forests provide protective habitat for a variety of plant and animal life; therefore

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports policy that adequately protects forest resources through such means as:

1. Improved management of public and private forest
2. Adequately funded research programs in all phases of forest management and recycling technologies
3. Accelerated planting programs
4. Control of waste, fire, insects, and disease
5. Increased forestry technological and economic assistance
6. Expanded commercial and private voluntary source reduction and paper recycling programs.
7. Public awareness programs

**Adopted May 20000, Amended May 2007**, **Amended May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Reaffirmed May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  011-020 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

**WHEREAS:** Household Hazardous Waste is considered to be one of the major problems in our nation today; and

**WHEREAS:** Improper disposal of household waste, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, aerosols and pesticides, can pollute the environment and pose a threat to health and

**WHEREAS:** Household hazardous waste is often disposed of with regular household refuse, and indiscriminate mixing of these wastes can give off toxic gases, can be flammable and pose a serious threat of injury to trash collectors and landfill operators; and

**WHEREAS**: Household toxic material pollutes the environment by leaching into soil and water and electronic devices; therefore

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support reductions in the amount of household disposal of household hazardous waste; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges it members to support reductions in the amount of household toxic material entering the waste stream by:

1. Promoting public awareness that some hazardous materials can be safely reused, if recycled and
2. Promoting public participation in household hazardous waste "drop off" programs,
3. Substituting non-hazardous products for hazardous household cleaning yard car, and car maintenance products,
4. Promoting public awareness about proper disposal to prevent pollution

**Adopted May 2000, Amended May 2007, Amended May 2011, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  011-030 RENEWABLE ENERGY

**WHEREAS**: Global security and economic well-being demands a balanced use of energy resources; and

**WHEREAS**: Renewable energy resources reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign energy, are environmentally sensitive, create economic opportunities for America's farmers and rural communities, and are necessary in meeting the nation's future energy need; therefore

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote and conduct conservation programs which relate to reducing the level of energy consumption; and further

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges governments, private industry and consumers to:

1. Focus public attention on the need for adequate energy and the need for coordinated energy policies.
2. Encourage balance between the interests of proper management of resources, adequate water supplies and protection of wildlife, with the interests of energy production; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges governments and private industry to research, explore and develop efficient and effective energy sources.

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation to fund and expand renewable energy resources, including a higher national renewable energy standard and decreasing consumption of all nonrenewable fuels.

**Adopted May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

###### 011-040 WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY

 **WHEREAS:** A dependable water supply is essential to the world’s health and economy; and the proper use of our present water supply, augmented by the restoration to usability of presently polluted water, would provide a supply of usable water that would sustain the earth’s population in the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS:** Pollutants such as household toxic materials, sewage, mine sludge and agricultural chemicals entering our streams, lakes and underground water supply may contribute to food shortages, disease and severe environmental degradation; and

**WHEREAS:** Rehabilitation and preservation of ground water, watersheds, wetlands, and forests are important factors both for water supply and water quality; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports enforcing existing laws protecting water quality and seeks stronger regulations to:

1. Develop a systematic program to prevent groundwater contamination;
2. Prohibit pollution of streams and water supplies;
3. Develop a means whereby individuals and businesses pay their fair share of the cost of maintaining clean water;
4. Maintain and protect our national forest; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports laws requiring local communities, landowners, and businesses in violation of pollution laws to clean up their pollution; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support initiatives to upgrade water infrastructure to ensure safe water and the development of clean water sources.

**Adopted May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

###### 011-050 CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**WHEREAS:** Coastal wetlands, public lands, national forests and lands managed by the National Park Service are irreplaceable assets and a vital component of a healthy economy; and

**WHEREAS:** Soil, water, wildlife and other resources are of national importance, providing economic, scenic and recreational benefits, and should be managed and utilized to their utmost potential; and

**WHEREAS:** Although natural gas, oil, coal and many nonfuel minerals are in public lands; environmental preservation and beautification is a great concern and a deeper understanding the environment inspires people to take responsibility for its use, preservation and restoration; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support and encourage participation in conservation education, including renewable and non-renewable natural resources; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges support of sustainable development and management of the multiple resources of coastal wetlands, public lands, and lands managed by the State and National Park Service; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs, urges private industry and governmental public lands and national forest for the benefit of all, and to encourage and support proper protection, sustainable development, beautification and management of these resources.

**Adopted May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

###### 011-060 CHEMICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

**WHEREAS:** The use of chemicals increases food supply and controls insects; and

**WHEREAS:** Chemical controls indiscriminately kill insects and damage habitats; and

 **WHEREAS:** Vital pollinator species, such as butterflies and bees, and their habitats, are declining due to misuse, overuse, and drift from spraying of chemicals; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

1. Inform the public that restoring a portion of the land to native habitats can protect biodiversity and slow species loss, help control pests, enhance pollination, and prevent losses of nutrients and water from soil; and
2. Advocate for the private and public sectors to continue research on the impact of chemicals on the environment; and
3. Educate the public on the prudent and safe use of chemicals and efforts to conserve, protect, and create pollinator habitats **Adopted May 2022**

###### 011-070 CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

**WHEREAS:** Natural ecosystems and their diversity of wild animals are disappearing at a rapid rate and many species have been so depleted in number or threatened by the loss of habitat that they are in danger of becoming extinct; and

 **WHEREAS:** Wildlife is in danger of possible extinction because of poaching, destructive fishing practices, and the destruction of or damage to terrestrial and marine habitats; and

 **WHEREAS:** Congress has recognized the importance of conservation of such species by enacting the Endangered Species Act; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

1. Support the reauthorization and implementation of the Endangered Species Act with the appropriation of sufficient funding and the flexibility to recognize personal property rights; and
2. Support the enactment and enforcement of laws for the protection and conservation of wildlife.

**Adopted May 2022**

##### EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

######  012-010 BASIC EDUCATION

**WHEREAS**: Many United States students are not prepared academically to compete in a global community; and

**WHEREAS**: Solutions aimed at creating more positive outcomes for students must be addressed: therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, realizing that meeting children's basic needs must begin at an early age and start in the home, urges its members to:

1. Encourage parents to work in partnership with schools and teachers.
2. Establish strong early childhood educational programs with challenging academic curricula for all students.
3. Establish and participate in tutoring programs and mentor programs linking volunteers, business representatives, or professionals with individual students.
4. Encourage respect, tolerance and cooperation amount the student, parent, and teacher.
5. Recognize teachers who are well prepared and dedicated, and who display excellence in developing our youth.
6. Encourage more students to study advanced mathematics and science to enable more young people to be highly competitive in the technological world.
7. Work for equality of education and high standards for all students.
8. Establish or participate as tutors in programs that encourage high school dropouts and those at risk of dropping out to pursue a general equivalency diploma (GED) in order to provide them with wider career opportunities.

**Adopted May 2000, Amended May 2004; Amended May 2008; Reaffirmed May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Amended May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  012-030 LEARNING DISABILITIES

**WHEREAS**: Research indicates that many children who do not do well in school may have undetected learning disabilities, and

**WHEREAS:** Early detection of a learning disability will enable a child to overcome a learning disability or at the very least make life easier as a child grows, therefore,

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges it member clubs to:

1. Educate members and their communities about learning disabilities;
2. Support programs for children with learning disabilities:
3. Support the development of programs that would raise awareness of all students to the problems of learning disabilities.

4, Be aware of the information available through the National Center for Learning Disabilities for a resource for all.

**Adopted May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998; Amended May 2005; Reaffirmed May 2009, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018; Amended May 2022**

######  012-040 LIFELONG LEARNING

**WHEREAS**: Since the inception of the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, the educational needs of all persons have been promoted and enhanced through educational forums, study groups, and seminars, therefore,

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to sponsor discussion groups and forums, both among their members and in their communities, and that subjects of local, national, and international importance be presented, and further

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs encourages all adults to further education through available programs, such as Elderhostel, ESO, and continuing education courses.

**Adopted May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998; Reaffirmed May 2006, Reaffirmed May 2010, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  012-050 LITERACY

**WHEREAS:** An alarming number of adults and job seekers in the United States are functional illiterates, and many school children cannot read or write well enough to make progress in school and

**WHEREAS:** There has been increased public awareness of the problem of adult illiteracy, teaching resources devoted to providing literacy skills are growing slowly, while demands for these services are increasing dramatically and teaching resources are not meeting demand; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation and increased funding for literacy services, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs surges its state federations and member clubs to:

1. Support curriculum within teacher certification programs that include methods to teach reading skills;
2. Support increased school funding to include periodic evaluation of reading proficiency, school-wide adolescent literacy programs, as well as remedial special services and projects in improved reading comprehension for all grade levels;
3. Support adult literacy programs in our communities;

1. Volunteer with local literacy groups or libraries to teach children and/or adults with literacy problems;
2. Encourage corporate awareness of literacy problems and support of literacy programs.

**Adopted May 2000, Reaffirmed May 2004; Amended May 2008, Reaffirmed May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Amended May 2019; Amended May 2022**

######  012-060 PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORT

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs was originally

responsible for establishing the first State Library in Oregon and the building of all the Carnegie Libraries in the early 1900s, and

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, having been responsible for founding most of the libraries in our communities, recognizes the contributions libraries have made and continue to make to the national welfare their communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Members of the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs are continuing to support their libraries by financial donations and volunteer hours, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges it member clubs to:

1. Continue strong support of existing libraries through their volunteer hours and financial support.
2. Encourage the extension of library services to all areas.
3. Strongly encourage the people of their communities to make full and responsible use of their library facilities and services.

**Adopted May 1996; Reaffirmed May 2000, Amended May 2004, Reaffirmed May 2008, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018, Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  012-070 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**WHEREAS:** An alarmingly high percentage of youth drop out before completing their education in high school or vocational education, and

**WHEREAS:** Unemployment and lack of education are considered as large contributing factors to juvenile delinquency, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs:

1. Gives strong support to stay-in-school programs, emphasizing proper

 guidance and counseling programs, utilizing, if necessary, skilled artisan aides to assist certified teachers in conducting courses in vocational education.

1. Requests federal and state governments to promote programs affording work opportunities without encroaching on the adult labor market.
2. Petitions labor and management to cooperate with schools, youth, and the United States Department of Labor to expand work opportunity programs including in-service or on-the-job training for young people.
3. Urges employment services, community organizations, media, schools, and businesses to provide local listings of safe and healthful work opportunities for young people year round.
4. Encourages local clubs to take the lead in organizing and promoting safe and healthful work opportunity programs for youth in their communities and states.

**Adopted May 1994; Reaffirmed May 1998, Reaffirmed May 2006; Amended May 2010, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018; Amended May 2022**

######  012-080 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs believes that understanding the culture, history, politics, economy and the everyday pattern of living of the nations of the world is necessary to the maintenance of peace; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports international exchange programs and urges member clubs to provide opportunities whereby the experiences of exchange persons can be used to promote international understanding, good will and peace among all peoples of the world and be constructive in the education and appreciation of all nations.

**Adopted May 2009, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

###### 012-090 COMMUNITY COLLEGES, VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

**WHEREAS:** Community colleges, vocational, and technical education institutions offer education, employment training and personal enrichment opportunities; and

 **WHEREAS:** Nearly half of all undergraduates in the United States attend community colleges; and

 **WHEREAS:** Community colleges offer quality education opportunities with flexible scheduling at a lower cost than traditional four-year schools; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support and promote these institutions; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support programs which provide financial assistance and/or incentives for enrollment.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 012-100 EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

**WHEREAS:** Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 guarantees no person in the U.S. shall on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identify, nationality, immigration status, race or ability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance; and

 **WHEREAS:** Research has provided a comprehensive assessment of the status of students in school; and

 **WHEREAS:** Research indicates that some students are being negatively affected in school by gender identity, nationality, immigration status, race or ability stereotyping; and

 **WHEREAS:** A continued interest in education reform has grown out of an urgency to achieve excellence in education in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports expanded accountability in reporting all Title IX programs to the Department of Education; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges it member clubs to:

1. Institute programs for teachers and counselors to learn effective teaching and counseling priorities;
2. Urge local school districts to review curricula and textbooks for stereotyping.
3. Undertake other activities that will make education equity a reality for all students.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 012-110 DIGITAL MEDIA IN EDUCATION

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs is aware of the ever increasing impact of digital media on the cultural pattern of the United States; recognizes its great educational value; and desires that the greatest possible constructive use be made of this technology; and

 **WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes both the promises and challenges presented by technological advancements in this media; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to work cooperatively with educational and governmental institutions in providing quality education through digital media; and

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the continued development of educational programming, and for state, local, and private financing of programs of merit; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes that the purpose of digital media in education be maintained and subject to commercial advertising limits imposed by current laws and regulations.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 012-120 EDUCATION OF CHILDREN RAISED IN FOSTER CARE

**WHEREAS:** More than 20,000 children in the United States foster care system annually reach the age of 18 and become ineligible for state-provided care; and **WHEREAS:** Studies show that:

1. Approximately 40% of children in foster care have educational difficulties; • Children in foster care are three times more likely to drop out of high school when compared to other low-income children; and
2. Only 50% of children in foster care obtain a high school diploma; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges it member clubs to:

1. Advocate for legislation that allows children in foster care the option of remaining in the foster care system until they either obtain a high school diploma or reach the age at which they are no longer entitled to a free public education; and
2. Collaborate with local school districts and foster care agencies to provide children raised in foster care with access to scholarships to complete a general equivalency diploma (GED) program and obtain post-secondary education, education training vouchers, academic success coaching, personal mentoring, and student care packages.

**Adopted May 2022**

###### 012-130 NURSING SHORTAGE CRISIS

**WHEREAS:** The shortage of nurses is a threat to patient health and a contributing factor to higher healthcare costs caused by high turnover rates and avoidable errors; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges it member clubs to support: Appropriate action to increase the number of nursing programs, qualified instructors, and enrollment opportunities in the nursing profession; and

Advocate for regulations lowering the minimum nurse to patient ratio; and

That there are better remuneration and working conditions for nurses are made available; and further

**RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges members to support the Saidie Orr Dunbar Nursing Education Scholarship Fund and other nursing school scholarships that may be available.

**Adopted May 2022**

###### 012-140 SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

**WHEREAS:** Emergency first responders such as police officers, fire and rescue service personnel, EMTs, and paramedics are the first ones on the scene when a traumatic event happens; and

**WHEREAS:** Emergency first responders, especially volunteers, incur significant costs to purchase and/or pay for equipment, training, and educational classes in order to be properly trained to respond to emergencies; and

**WHEREAS:** The increasing mental health problems in the United States require first responders to identify and assist persons undergoing a mental health crisis when it is difficult to quickly interpret the situation; and

 **WHEREAS:** According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 30% of first responders suffer from depression, anxiety, psychological-emotional disorders, and posttraumatic stress as a result of their service that may lead to mental health issues, substance abuse, divorce, and/or suicide; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

1. Legislation to establish and maintain crisis intervention services for first responders; and
2. Local, state, and federal funding for equipment, training, and educational courses for first responders; and
3. Legislation that establishes specialized training for first responders on how to identify and deescalate situations involving an individual suffering a mental health crisis **Adopted May 2022**

##### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

######  013-010 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**WHEREAS:** Many people of all nations and creeds share the belief that through prayer and affirmation of faith the hope of mankind for peace will be attained, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs strongly opposes the incitement of religious and based violence against others; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports the right of all people to devote themselves to an active faith of their own which will result in peace for mankind, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its clubs to maintain, in every practicable way, the influence of spiritual values in the life and education of all people.

**Adopted May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998, Reaffirmed May 2006, Amended May 2010, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  013-020 HEALTH CARE

**WHEREAS:** People require a full range of medical and mental health care services including prescription drugs to meet their health care needs; and

**WHEREAS:** There remain areas of the United States which have substandard or nonexistent health services; and

**WHEREAS:** The cost of health care services, prescription drugs and insurance is not affordable for all; and

**WHEREAS:** Everyone needs basic knowledge and understanding of health care terminology and procedures to function effectively as patients and health care consumers; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities, the government and private sector to improve the quality and affordability of health care services, prescription drugs and insurance for all; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges development of improved communication and explanation of medical terms and procedures between health care providers, patients and caregivers.

**Adopted May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  013-030 PAY EQUITY

**WHEREAS:** US government statistics demonstrate that there remains a significant gap between the wages paid to men and the wages paid to women; and

**WHEREAS:** Women run a greater risk of impoverishment as a result of divorce, death of a husband, or inadequate medical and retirement benefits; and

**WHEREAS:** The welfare of families is affected by the economic security of women; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Federation of Women's Clubs advocates equal access for women to higher paying and managerial positions with salaries equal to those of men in like positions through the enactment and enforcement of economic equity laws; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs expresses its support for The Economic Equity Act, and encourages passage of legislation that would improve the economic status of all women through improved employment training, expanded business opportunities, better child care services, and more equitable retirement and medical benefits.

**Adopted May 1996, Reaffirmed May 2000, Amended May 2007, Amended May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Reaffirmed May 2019**, **Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  013-040 PRE-NATAL CARE

**WHEREAS:** Inadequate pre-natal care has been associated with increased risk of low infant birth weights, premature births, and neo-natal, infant and maternal mortality; and

**WHEREAS:** Proper pre-natal care may substantially decrease hospital expenses for newborns; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports programs, legislation and funding for appropriate pre-natal care.

**Adopted May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  013-060 AGRICULTURAL POLICY FAMILY FARMS

**WHEREAS:** A Family Farm is a form of business enterprise by a family engaged in the production of food, fiber, forest products, and/or flora for profit, which provides a major source of income and capital for reinvestment: and

**WHEREAS:** The lack of financial rewards is jeopardizing the future of family farms, which not only produce high quality foods, but benefit local communities by being good stewards of the land; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports

legislation, fiscal policies and programs which ensure the financial rewards of farming be and sustain practical, productive and efficient use of the land by farmers and farm families; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs encourages members to advocate with Congress and their state legislatures and local governments to continue developing legislation for a long-range constructive agricultural program, to benefit family farms, which will:

1. Assure equal economic opportunity and adequate protection under the law for farm families;
2. Ensure Family Farms will continue to receive water based on their irrigation water rights;
3. Provide more financial incentives to make farming and farm life attractive to farmers and their families, including working to restore the farmer’s profit share in the food system.

**Adopted May 2016, Amended Oct 2020, Amended May 2024**

013-070 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

**WHEREAS:** The American Heart Association reports that sudden cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating, happens to more than 350,000 Americans outside of hospitals each year; and

**WHEREAS:** Survival is directly linked to the amount of time between the onset of cardiac arrest and defibrillation; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Heart Association estimates that 100,000 lives could be saved each year if Automated External Defibrillators (AED) were more available to the public; and

**WHEREAS**: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are proven lifesaving techniques; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

1. Promote the availability of AEDs in all public places;
2. Work with local and state legislatures, school boards, education groups and other organizations for the implementation of CPR and AED training in public and private schools;
3. Promote participation in age and gender specific CPR and AED education, training and re-certification for all members of the community.

**Adopted May 2016, Amended Oct 2020** , **Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  013-090 HOMELESSNESS

**WHEREAS:** There are increasing numbers of homeless people, including youth, veterans, elderly, disabled, and families with children; and

**WHEREAS:** Poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, medical expenses, domestic violence, incest and sexual abuse, mental illness and addiction disorders are major causes of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS:** Food, safe shelter, clothing, medical and mental health services, substance and physical abuse treatment, education and employment training opportunities are greatly needed by the homeless; and

**WHEREAS:** Homeless youth require specialized services to ensure their health, safety, emotional well-being and education; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

1. Contact local homeless coalitions to identify current needs and services available including access to public education, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment for the homeless population in their communities;
2. Support funding for services for all at risk in the homeless population;
3. Contact local homeless assistance providers and inquire how members can support their efforts:
4. Support efforts to improve or develop transitional living programs with emphasis on education, life skills and employment training to enable homeless families and individuals to become self-sufficient members of the community;
5. Support efforts to develop decent, affordable and permanent housing to ensure that the cycle of homelessness is broken.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020** , **Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  013-100 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION

**WHEREAS:** Substance abuse including alcohol, illegal prescription and over the counter drugs continues to be a menace to the public health and safety, and loss of life and societal costs for the prevention and treatment of abuse are enormous; and

**WHEREAS:** Substance abuse produces harmful effects to the physical, mental and emotional health of abusers, contributes to criminal activity and is a contributing factor in the spread of HIV infection; and

**WHEREAS:** Substance abusers need therapeutic programs and services to return to healthy and productive lives; and

**WHEREAS:** Preventing substance abuse is largely dependent upon a sound educational program about the dangers of substance abuse; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to work with other organizations in supporting and promoting substance abuse education and prevention programs; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support the enactment and strict enforcement of laws against the production, distribution and possession of illegal substances; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support the continued development of programs and increased availability of services to substance abusers through private and public means such as continued appropriations at state and local levels recognizing that these programs should be viewed as ongoing treatment for improving the lives of such abusers; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support local and state program initiatives for the proper and environmentally safe disposal of unused prescription medications to prevent future abuse.

**Adopted May 2016, Amended Oct 2020** , **Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  013-120 MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

**WHEREAS:** The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in five adults suffer from a diagnosable and treatable mental health disorder; and

**WHEREAS:** Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and severe anxiety disorders are illnesses; and

**WHEREAS:** The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that untreated mental illnesses annually cost hundreds of billions of dollars in lost productivity, health care, and societal costs; and

**WHEREAS:** A report of the Surgeon General’s states that fewer than one in five of the estimated 15 million children and adolescents, who suffer from a mental illness received treatment; and

**WHEREAS:** Discriminatory insurance coverage of mental illnesses limits treatments, can bankrupt families and place a tremendous burden on taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS:** Numerous studies have found equitable coverage for mental illnesses to be cost effective; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to promote programs that educated members and the public about the connection between mental and physical health in an effort to remove the stigma associated with mental illness; further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support legislation and regulations requiring equitable coverage for mental and physical illnesses.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

###### 013-130 BREAST CANCER

**WHEREAS:** The Center for Disease Control reports that one in eight women and one in 1,000 men will develop breast cancer in his/her lifetime; and

**WHEREAS:** A woman’s risk of developing breast cancer increases as she ages: and

**WHEREAS:** The stage at which breast cancer is diagnosed is a major predictor of survival, with early detection significantly lowering the mortality rate; and

**WHEREAS:** Self-examination by palpation, regular physical examination by a physician, especially when there is a family history of cancer, and mammography (xray) and other imaging technologies are screening methods that assit in early cancer detection; and

**WHEREAS:** Mastectomies and lymph node dissections are common treatments of breast cancer; and

**WHEREAS:** Many are forced to go home from the hospital hours after breast cancer surgery due to hospital stay restrictions imposed by their insurance companies; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to continue to raise awareness and encourages participation in breast cancer screening and early treatment; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation requiring insurance companies to cover hospital stays for recovering breast cancer surgery patients including a 48-hour minimum hospital stay for mastectomy patients and a 24-hour minimum hospital stay for those undergoing lymph node dissection surgery.

**Adopted May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

###### 013-140 CANCER

**WHEREAS:** Cancer is a complex group of diseases with many possible causes; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the American Cancer Society, more than one million people develop cancer each year; and

**WHEREAS:** The American Cancer Society and the National Institutes of Health estimate the annual costs of cancer exceed hundreds of billions of dollars; and

**WHEREAS:** There are multiple causes of cancer, including genetic factors; lifestyle choices such as tobacco use, diet, physical inactivity; sun and UV exposure; certain infections; and environmental exposures to certain chemicals and radiation; and

**WHEREAS:** More than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented through education, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support, participate in, and sponsor educational campaigns that target risk factors; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support legislation that combats cancer and its risk factors; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports research funding for the continued development of screening methods, treatments and cures.

**Adopted May 2019, Reaffirmed May 2023**

###### 013-150 DIABETES

**WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control, diabetes is one of the leading cause of death in the United States and the number of children and adults with diabetes is rising; and

**WHEREAS:** Diabetes can cause and/or complicate other health problems in children and adults including cardiovascular, renal, neurologic and dental diseases, and may cause complications of pregnancy and obesity with an estimated cost of $245 billion in direct or indirect costs; and

**WHEREAS:** Diabetes is more prevalent among minority groups and elderly persons and discrimination against those with diabetes has occurred in the workplace, child care centers and schools; and

**WHEREAS:** In order to manage their disease, those with diabetes must have access to the means to balance food, medication and physical activity level; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to support:

1. The enforcement of disability rights laws prohibiting discrimination against those with diabetes:
2. Funding for quality medical care for those with diabetes;
3. Programs to train school and child care personnel to identify symptoms and treatment options in order for students with diabetes to be medically safe;
4. Education about the benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity to reduce the onset of diabetes; and
5. Increased funding for diabetes research and prevention programs; and
6. Encourage legislation to decrease cost of insulin so it is more readily available to help fight the disease.

**Adopted May 2019; Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  013-160 WORLD HUNGER

**WHEREAS:** Hunger exists both domestically and internationally; and

**WHEREAS:** Hunger affects the quality of life of all by contributing to civil unrest, terrorism, crime, environmental degradation, mass migration of refugees and a curtailment of world trade; and

**WHEREAS:** Hunger should be viewed as a problem that can be solved, instead of a tragedy that must be endured; and

**WHEREAS:** The immediate problems of hunger, malnutrition and preventable diseases must be dealt with, along with their causes including chronic poverty, deprivation, and/or civil conflicts; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs commends the worthwhile efforts of private organizations, governments and the United Nations to end world hunger; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to participate in and support programs to end domestic and world hunger and that promote long-term selfsufficiency of low-income people.

**Adopted May 2009, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

###### 013-170 FAMILY CARETAKERS

**WHEREAS:** Meeting the demands of multiple family responsibilities, as well as the added pressures of employment and outside commitments, creates great stress for family caregivers; and

 **WHEREAS:** There is a possible financial advantage and opportunity for more individualized care options in a community-based program; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to work with appropriate agencies in their communities to support the development and maintenance of creative community based support services for those with a terminal or debilitating illness, the elderly, people with disabilities, and family caregivers, such as adult day care centers, respite care, transportation services, nutrition services, home health and homemaker services, congregate or alternative housing arrangements and support groups for family caregivers; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to work with their state and federal legislators to formulate licensing requirements for home health care workers that would include background checks and minimum standards of training; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation providing for:

1. Flexible employment policies and programs to train and aid family caregivers;

Licensing and training requirements for home health care workers.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 013-180 TOLERANCE

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs believes that the democratic form of government is endangered by the unchecked growth of prejudice, violence, racism, terrorism, and intolerance; and

**WHEREAS:** The cardinal principles of our democratic institutions demand respect for the rights of others; and

**WHEREAS:** Problems resulting from intolerance have a national and international impact; and

**WHEREAS:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) promotes peace, non-violence and understanding, and has an established Day for Tolerance, which is observed annually on November 16; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs support the

responsibility for fostering tolerance, justice and religious freedom in clubs and communities.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 013-190 PREVENTABLE DISEASE

**WHEREAS:** The incidence of disease is costly to society; and

**WHEREAS:** Preventable diseases have surged due to the lack of vaccinations, resulting in epidemics and needless loss of life; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

1. Support legislation mandating medical insurance companies cover consumers with
2. Promote and support education and research on prevention, control, and cure of disease, including the necessity and safety of immunizations; and
3. Support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for vaccinations; and
4. Support the World Health Organization’s Global Vaccine Action Plan; and
5. Support local, state, and federal health departments, health care providers, and health organizations in the early detection.

**Adopted May 2022**

##### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

######  015-010 BICYCLE SAFETY

**WHEREAS**: Millions of people are now bicycle riders and

**WHEREAS:** Thousands die and are injured annually as a result of collisions between bicycles and motor vehicles, and

**WHEREAS:** The number of bicycles is expected to increase due to the recreational and health values of bicycling and due to the concern for pollution control, traffic congestion, and transportation expenses, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs

promotes bicycle safety courses for all bicyclists and urges cooperation between school officials and safety officials in the presentation of safety courses, and further;

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges the construction of exclusive or preferential bicycle lanes or paths, bicycle traffic control devises, shelters and parking facilities to serve bicycles; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to emphasize the importance of bicycle maintenance and encourage bicyclists to obey traffic laws; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports bicycle safety including obeying all traffic laws, using bicycle lanes when available, staying to the side of the road, and wearing helmet; and further,

**RESOLVED:** That children and teenagers be encouraged to obey the mandatory bicycle helmet law in the State of Oregon

**Adopted May 1995, Reaffirmed May 1998, Amended May 2006, Reaffirmed May 2010, Amended May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  015-020 BILL OF RESPONSIBILITY

**PREAMBLE:** Prejudice and responsibility are mutual and inseparable; we can ensure enjoying the one only by exercising the other. Freedom for all of us depends on responsibility by each of use. To secure and expand our liberties, therefore, we accept these responsibilities as individual members of a free society:

1. To be Fully Responsible For Our Own Actions and For The

Consequences Of Those Actions. Freedom to choose carries with it the responsibility for our choice.

1. To Respect The Rights and Beliefs Of Others. In a free society, diversity flourishes, Courtesy and consideration toward others are measures of a civilized society.
2. To Give Sympathy, Understanding, and Help To Others. As we hope others will help us when we are in need, we should help others when they are in need.
3. To Do Our Best To Meet Our Own and Our Families Needs. There is no personal freedom without economic freedom. By helping ourselves and those closest to us to become productive members of society, we contribute to the strength of the nation.
4. To Respect and Obey The Laws. Laws are mutually accepted rules by which, together, we maintain a free society. Liberty itself is built upon a foundation of laws. That foundation provides an orderly process for changing laws. It also depends on our obeying laws once they have been freely adopted.
5. To Respect The Property Of Others, Both Private and Public. No one has a right to what is not hers. The right to enjoy what is ours depends on our respecting the right of others to enjoy what is theirs.
6. To Share With Others Our Appreciation Of The Benefits and Obligations of Freedom.
7. Freedom shared is freedom strengthened.
8. To Participate Constructively In Our Nation's Political Life. Democracy depends on an active citizenry. It depends equally on an informed citizenry.
9. To Help Freedom Survive By Assuming Personal Responsibility For Its Defense. Our nation cannot survive unless we defend it. Its security rests on the individual determination of each of use to help preserve it.
10. To Respect The Rights and To Meet The Responsibilities On Which Our Liberty Rests and Our Democracy Depends. This is the essence of freedom. Maintaining it requires our common effort, all together and each individually.

**WHEREAS:** The freedom we enjoy means that each of us must accept out responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS:** The security of our nation depends on our individual determination to help preserve it; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs support the Bill of Responsibilities as developed by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

**Adopted May 1986, Reaffirmed May 1990, Reaffirmed May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998, Reaffirmed May 2006, Amended May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  015-040 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**WHEREAS:** Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of history shape a state's identify, and

**WHEREAS:** Historic landmarks and artifacts contribute to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of communities, and

**WHEREAS:** There are countless historic properties and buildings being ignored, destroyed and abandoned;, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its clubs and members to support preservation of historic landmarks and artifacts, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its clubs and members to study and preserve the history of their club, OFWC and GFWC, including written and oral histories, buildings and artifacts.

**Adopted May 1994, Reaffirmed May 1998, Reaffirmed May 2004, Amended May 2008; Amended May 2011, Reaffirmed October 2015, Reaffirmed May 2019**, **Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  015-060 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 being deterred by the potential for liability actions against them; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs and its member clubs support reform of tort laws in all states to protect volunteers from civil liability.

**Adopted May 1996, Reaffirmed May 2000, Amended May 2005, Amended May 2009, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  015-070 SAFETY HELMETS

**WHEREAS:** Wearing safety helmets has been shown to prevent serious head injuries; and

**WHEREAS:** Various types of transportation and recreation can put users at risk; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs;

1. Supports continued legislation requiring safety helmet use by those using bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, all terrain-vehicles (ATV's), skates, skateboards, scooters, snow skis and snow boards regardless of age.

**Adopted ???? Reaffirmed October 2015, Amended May 2019**, **Reaffirmed May 2023**

######  015-080 WOMEN IN TRANSITION

**WHEREAS:** An increasing number of women in this country are finding through widowhood, desertion, separation, divorce, disability of spouse, welfare reform, or loss of public assistance they must secure employment to support themselves and sometimes others, and

**WHEREAS:** The traditional non-economic contribution to the marriage has meant that they are not covered in their own right by Social Security, pensions, health insurance, or unemployment compensation, and

**WHEREAS**: Women in transition often lack current skills or recent work experience, which leads to unemployment and are not adequately served by employment and training programs, and

**WHEREAS:** Education and training are essential to attaining self-sufficiency; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to urge the Congress of the United States and their Local State Legislature:

1. To appropriate sufficient funding for laws which assist states in providing greater opportunities for women in transition.
2. To continue and expand job training services and programs that encourages and support women in transition to prepare for careers that lead to self-sufficiency.
3. To expand the nation's student financial aid system so that all female students with financial needs qualify for aid.

**Adopted May 2012, Amended May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020**, **Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  015-090 DISASTER SERVICE PLANNING

**WHEREAS:** Natural and other disasters may strike with little or no warning; and

**WHEREAS:** Successful emergency programs require awareness, acceptance and participation by individuals, families and communities: and

**WHEREAS:** Many people would not be able to evacuate a disaster area due to lack of resources; and

**WHEREAS:** Many elderly and disabled individuals, including those in hospitals and nursing homes, would be physically incapable of leaving on their own: and **WHEREAS:** Terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, increasing the threat of attacks; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

1. Be aware of emergency service programs, accept personal responsibility and take positive action toward ensuring family survival;
2. Promote public education and participation through club and community programs and projects;
3. Assess and assist in the establishment and support of local emergency services; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support comprehensive state and local policies that require evacuation plans that include:

1. People with disabilities, in institutions, or without access to transportation; and
2. The humane collection, shelter and/or evacuation of animals.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020**, **Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  015-100 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; and

**WHEREAS**: Identity theft is perpetrated by stealing personal information through credit cards, driver's licenses, ATM cars, social security numbers, and computer hacking; and

**WHEREAS**: The perpetrator's actions may result in the victim being held civilly liable and having a record of criminal conviction; and

**WHEREAS:** Governments and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers; and technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information: and

**WHEREAS**: Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, including child identity theft, its serious ramifications, and the importance of and methods for protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of personal information; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to educate themselves and their communities about phising attacks and how to identify scammer emails or calls; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to educate themselves and their communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in their accounts and credit reports; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges governments agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish a simplified victim fraud alert process; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to advocate for legislation allowing a victim of identity theft to make an application to the court for expungement of any records reflecting that the victim was charged or convicted of a crime committed by the perpetrator; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records available on the internet; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges members to support increased resources for the stringent enforcement of The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Amended May 2024**

######  015-120 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, HAZING AND BULLYING

**WHEREAS:** Harassment, intimidation, hazing and bullying include any written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that intentionally causes mental and/or physical harm; and

**WHEREAS:** Acts of harassment, intimidation, hazing and bullying can create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for the victim; and

**WHEREAS:** Cyber bullying occurs through electronic technology; and

**WHEREAS:** Victims of bullying suffer long-term emotional and behavioral problems as well as increased vulnerability to illness: and

**WHEREAS:** Bullying has been identified as a cause of youth suicides; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

1. Educate members and their communities through club programs about the serious issues of harassment, intimidation, hazing and bullying; and
2. Contact local school districts to become educated about the district's anti-harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying policies and plans that specifically address these behaviors; and further

**RESOLVED**: The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to take action to increase resources for prevention and to ensure the sustained funding of effective intervention and prevention programs.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  015-130 COMMUNICATION INDUSTRY

**WHEREAS:** Communications technology exerts cultural, educational, political, religious and social impact on large populations; and

**WHEREAS:** The potential exists for the abuse of the technology by governmental and nongovernmental entities, commercial and public interests and individuals; and

**WHEREAS:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the right of people to regulate what comes into their homes via the communication industry; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs encourages members to urge the communication industry to demonstrate responsibility to the public by a continuous effort to broadcast information that is accurate, educationally sound and morally appropriate; and

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges members to commend what is beneficial and correct what is questionable by making their views known to the responsible parties.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

######  015-140 OPIOIDS

**WHEREAS,** Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, fentanyl, and other painkillers; and

**WHEREAS,** Overdose slows a person’s breathing, may cause brain damage and death, and a multitude of other acute and chronic conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** According to the United State Department of Health and Human Services, legal prescription opioid overdoses and addictions have reached epidemic proportions,; and

**WHEREAS**, Opioid abuse is a serious public health issue and drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of non-intentional injury deaths in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Prescription opioids can be an effective form of pain management but it is important to understand the benefits and risks; and

**WHEREAS,** The immediate treatment for overdose can reverse the impact of morbidity and mortality; therefore

**RESOLVED,** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for the development of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community; and further

**RESOLVED,** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to promote legislation and regulations to combat opioid overdose and addiction; and further

**RESOLVED,** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs advocate for all police officers and first responders to carry naloxone to be used when answering any call.

**Adopted May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

######  015-150 HUMAN RIGHTS

**WHEREAS:** Human rights abuses and genocide continue to occur around the world; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs calls upon all nations to end human rights abuses and genocide by promoting the rule of law, peace and understanding among all peoples.

**Adopted May 2009, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

###### 015-160 ABOLISHMENT OF PORNOGRAPHY

**WHEREAS:** Pornography is known to be addictive and progressive and has been associated with damage to families, violence, and the exploitation of children; and

 **WHEREAS:** Pornographic materials are readily available on electronic devices, especially through the Internet; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to use every available legal means to combat pornography by:

1. Educating its members, teenagers, parents, and the public about the current pornography laws and the problems of easy access to pornographic materials in all forms of media and communication and its destructive effects on society;
2. Encouraging cooperation of law enforcers and communication technology providers to combat the electronic distribution and possession of child pornography;
3. Supporting the strict enforcement of existing laws, especially those dealing with children, and the creation of new laws where needed; and
4. Encourage parents to monitor and prevent access to pornographic material on electronic devices.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 015-170 RESPECT FOR THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**WHEREAS: Th**e American flag is a rallying point for Americans and stands for patriotism and love of country; and

 **WHEREAS:** For generations Americans have dedicated and given their lives to preserve the freedoms represented by the flag; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to learn and practice proper flag etiquette; and

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to promote and endorse the flying of our flag in a correct and respectful manner in their communities every day; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs expresses its strongest objections to the improper burning of and to any manner of desecration of the American Flag.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 015-180 SCHOOL VOILENCE AND DISRUPTIONS

**WHEREAS:** The theft, vandalism, weapons, bombs, personal assaults and threats, some with deadly force, on students, teachers and personnel in our schools are alarming; and

 **WHEREAS:** Incidents of crime and violence disrupt our schools, endanger students and school personnel and interfere with the safe atmosphere conducive to the educational process; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to promote programs to reduce school crime and disruptions by working with representatives from the school and community to:

1. Study the local situation and determine a course of action involving parents, educators and school administrators, religious and community leaders, law enforcement agencies, and students;
2. Provide families with access to early educational childcare programs proven to reduce crime;
3. Implement programs of prevention and correction;
4. Enforce zero-tolerance policies toward the presence of weapons, alcohol, and illegal drugs;
5. Encourage school systems to prosecute offenders through the appropriate channels.

**Adopted October 2021**

###### 015-190 DISASTER SERVICE PLANNING

**WHEREAS:** Natural and other disasters may strike with little or no warning; and

**WHEREAS:** Successful emergency programs require awareness, acceptance and participation by individuals, families and communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Many people would not be able to evacuate a disaster area due to lack of resources; and

**WHEREAS:** Many elderly and disabled individuals, including those in hospitals and nursing homes, would be physically incapable of leaving on their own; and

**WHEREAS:** Terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, increasing the threat of attacks; therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

1. Be aware of emergency service programs, accept personal responsibility and take positive action toward ensuring family survival; and
2. Promote public education and participation through club and community programs and projects; and
3. Assess and assist in the establishment and support of local emergency services; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support comprehensive national, state and local policies that require evacuation plans that include:

1. People with disabilities, in institutions, or without access to transportation; and
2. The humane collection, shelter and/or evacuation of animals.

**Adopted May 2022**

015-200 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

**WHEREAS:** The future depends on the vision, courage, faith and devotion of those who believe that freedom must underlie any satisfying personal life, political order or productive economy; and

**WHEREAS:** Our country and the documents guaranteeing our freedom are sources of inspiration to people in many lands, giving them strength and guidance in their aspiring efforts toward freedom because they are based on the doctrine of freedom of the individual, limited only by transgression of the freedom of others; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs of education especially in schools to reiterate devotion to those ideals which have made this country a sanctuary of freedom: namely, those freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights, and such inherent rights as respect for the dignity of the individual and freedom of thought, discussion, and belief.

**Adopted May 2022**

**015-210 Wildfire Prevention and Safety**

**WHEREAS:** Wildfires pose significant threats to life, property, forest resources, and public health through smoke inhalation; and

**WHEREAS:** Proactive measures and educational programs can mitigate the risks associated with wildfires, including the implementation wildfire preention and safety tactics, along with knowledge of evacuation plans and routes, and strategies to reuce smoke inhalation danage; and

**WHEREAS:** State and Local Governments, and other agencies play a critical role in promoting wildfire prevention and safety initiatives within their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS:** Community engagement and public awareness are essential components of effective wildfire prevention and safety efforts; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs supports comprehensive wildfire prevention and safety measures aimed at reducing the impact of wildfires on our communities and environment; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs endorses the following actions:

1. Supporting State and Local educational programs focused on making homes and properties more fire safe, including the adoption of fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, and defensible space creation.
2. Encouraging the development and dissemination of evacuation plans that prioritize the safety and will being of residents in wildfire prone areas, including clear communication channels, designated evacuation routes, and emergency shelters.
3. Promoting awareness of the dangers of smoke inhalation during wildfires and providing resources and guidance on minimizing exposure, such as staying indoors, using air filtration systems, and seeking medical attention if necessary.
4. Collaborating with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups to implement community-wide wildfire prevention and safety initiatives, including neighborhood clean-up events, fire drills, and outreach campaigns.
5. Advocating for increased funding and resources to support wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response efforts at the state and local levels, including investments in firefighting equipment, infrastructure improvements, and public education campaigns.
6. Engaging with stakeholders, including homeowners, business, land managers and emergency responders, to develop holistic approaches to wildfire management that address the root causes of wildfires and promote sustainable land use practices.

**Adopted May 2024**

Junior’s Special Project: Advocates For Children

016-010 Child Foster Care

**WHEREAS:** According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the number of children in out-of-home care is more than half a million; and

**WHEREAS:** The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 establishes national goals for children in the child welfare system including safety, permanence, and well-being, therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

1. Support legislation and programs that facilitate recruitment, training and retention of high-quality foster parents and kinship providers;
2. Encourage efforts by state and/or local agencies who have legal custody of foster children to maintain their cultural heritage and family relationships, making every effort to keep siblings together.

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports the development of programs and services that help to establish permanency and educational stability for children in foster care.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

016-020 Youth Suicide Prevention

**WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is one of the leading causes of death among youth ages 15 to 24 years old; and

**WHEREAS:** Suicidal youth may exhibit characteristics and warning signs; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges members to support programs that:

1. Provide information to increase awareness about behavioral characteristics, risk factors and warning signs of at-risk youth to peer groups, parents, school personnel, and other concerned adults;
2. Provide information about available treatment, counseling resources, and services;
3. Teach youth to build self-esteem and to develop coping skills;
4. Emphasize building support groups and networks for youth who have survived an attempted suicide, and for surviving family and friends of suicide victims;
5. Development of awareness of bullying and cyber bullying; and further

**RESOLVED**: The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges school

districts to fund and develop plans of action to identify at-risk youth and provide staff training in recognizing risk factors and warning signs of suicidal behavior.

**Adopted May 2016, Amended Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

###### 016-030 ILLEGAL INTERSTATE Traffic OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**WHEREAS:** The unscrupulous and profitable "black and gray market" in interstate transportation of children for adoption continues to operate, and

**WHEREAS:** Sexual exploitation includes pornography, solicitation, prostitution and grooming for the purpose of sex trafficking and children are unable to protect themselves, and

**WHEREAS:** The underlying causes of these activities include poverty, greed, family dysfunction and the drug trade, and

**WHEREAS:** Sexually exploited children can suffer from lifelong sexual, physical and emotional damage and victims are at a high risk of unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AID, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases, and

**WHEREAS:** Education is vital to prevent sexual exploitation of children by empowering them with ways to protect themselves and avoid high-risk situations, therefore

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to seek enactment of federal and state legislation to prosecute those transporting children across state lines for profit in the name of adoption and for inter-or-intrastate sexual exploitation of children, and urges enforcement of laws that protect children under these circumstances, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support federal and state legislation creating standardized procedures covering interstate adoption of children, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs encourages and supports educational and awareness programs designed for children to increase understanding of sexual exploitation and encourage communication of such problems with a responsible adult, and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs support counseling programs and medical services for children and adult survivors who are victims and supports aggressive prosecution of and strict supervision of persons convicted.

**Adopted May 2012, Reaffirmed May 2016, Amended Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

**Signature Project: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**

###### 017-010 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**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:** Dating violence is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship; and

**WHEREAS:** Young people 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 abuse and many state laws and legal remedies designed to protect victims of abuse are applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs 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 GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress and state government to fully fund legislation that supports victims of domestic violence; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, 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.

**Adopted May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Reaffirmed May 2022**

###### 017-020 SEXUAL ASSAULT

**WHEREAS:** Sexual Violence is a serious and widespread societal issue that has a lasting impact on individuals, families, and communities: and

**WHEREAS:** Programs including law enforcement personnel training, counseling and services for survivors, and court monitoring in sexual assault cases are needed in all communities: and

**WHEREAS**: The establishment and/or support of programs including law enforcement personnel training, victim counseling and court monitoring in sexual assault offenses is needed in all communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Campus sexual assault survivors suffer high rates of PostTraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and drug or alcohol abuse which can hamper both the ability to succeed in school and future employment; therefore:

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports the establishment and/or strengthening of a comprehensive sexual assault reporting and conviction program; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation which will:

1. Strongly support the enforcement of existing laws and criminal penalties dealing with sexual assault.
2. Advocate for new laws where needed.
3. Provide funding for training of law enforcement personnel and medical providers in the handling of sexual assault cases; and

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports funding for rape crisis centers and comprehensive services for sexual assault survivors; and further

**RESOLVED**: That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to establish and/or support community public education campaigns to alleviate the stigma affecting sexual assault victims; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its members to establish and/or support community awareness programs for sexual assault survivors to seek counsel and support as well as to alleviate the stigma affecting survivors; and further

**RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges it members:

1. To encourage all colleges and universities to educate survivors on how to advocate for themselves and provide information about resources available.
2. To assist them in continuing to pursue their chosen course of study.
3. Increase emphasis on prevention of sexual assault and dating violence through programs focused on bystander intervention and
4. To ensure that colleges and universities have comprehensive and easily accessible policies and clear procedures for reporting sexual assault.

**Adopted May 2010, Reaffirmed May 2014; Reaffirmed May 2018; Amended May 2022**

###### 017-030 ELDER ABUSE

**WHEREAS:** The number of people aged 65 or older is expected to double by the year 2030; and

**WHEREAS:** Millions of older Americans are victims of physical, sexual, financial, psychological, or other forms of abuse and neglect each year; and

**WHEREAS:** Many nursing care facilities lack adequate staff to properly care for patients; and

**WHEREAS:** Caregivers committing crimes against the elderly are seldom identified or punished; therefore

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support legislation and programs directed toward justice for the elderly; and further

**RESOLVED:** The GFWC Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs supports education of technology and other programs to eliminate elder abuse and neglect.

**Adopted May 2016, Reaffirmed Oct 2020, Reaffirmed May 2024**

###### 017-040 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**WHEREAS:** Sexual harassment is any unwanted behavior linked to gender or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS:** Sexual harassment affects the lives and careers of millions of women and men; and

**WHEREAS:** Sexual harassment is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

 **WHEREAS:** Sexual harassment may not be reported due to the fear of retaliation; therefore

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to educate the public about:

1. Behaviors that may be considered sexually harassing;
2. Workplace awareness and training; and
3. Legal remedies when harassment or retaliation occurs; and further

 **RESOLVED:** That the GFWC Oregon Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to promote consistent enforcement of laws against sexual harassment.

Adopted May 2022