

Linda's Notes

GFWC of Tennessee

2/22/2017

[Edition 1, Volume 7]

State Updates

This issue of Linda's notes will be abbreviated since TF News will be coming out later this month. Lots of activities are happening including all the reporting and getting ready for the Spring Convention. We have clubs planting the butterfly gardens and getting ready for our next big project – the library quilt square! Stay tuned!!!!

~ Linda ~



The Collect

“—without self-pity and without prejudice”

These are two concepts that I must admit I am guilty of. Initially, it is easy to deny I have self-pity and I certainly would say I'm not prejudiced. But when I really started thinking about self-pity and what it means, I am forced to look at that side of myself that I am not always proud of. We all have that friend or acquaintance that we hate to call and ask them to do some task because all we will get is

a list of all the things that are going on in their lives and all the things they have to do. I start to grind my teeth.



However, after thinking about it, when someone calls me to catch up, I am guilty of filling their ear full of all the responsibilities I have to



Dates to remember:

Spring Convention:
April 21-23, 2017
Holiday Inn,
Murfreesboro, TN

GFWC Convention
June 24-26, 2017
Palm Springs, CA

Fall Conference
October 20-21, 2017
Nashville Area

Former GFWC President Sue Walker has been hospitalized and is now in rehab. She would love to receive cards. Send them to her in care of Kendra Walker Patty 2702 Lakewood Lane Knoxville, TN 37921

take care of, the emails I have to answer, the running around I have to do -- it can end up being a competition who has the most to do. And usually it is all self-imposed! I volunteered to fill my life with probably more than I ought to, so I need to take ownership in it and quit having self-pity.

And don't get me started on complaining about health issues! I find as I get older I am doing what drove me crazy about my mother and step-father -- which had the worst health issues, the most doctor's appointments, or the most pills to put in their pill planner. I swore I would never have a pill planner -- but I do. In fact, I have two. One is my plain everyday one but the other is beautiful and jewel-encrusted. At least if I am going to have to take pills, I will do it with style and not complain!



I am always amazed by the grace of those who have reasons to complain but don't. One example is our own

Barbara Boden. She was facing surgery to remove part of her lung, was having trouble breathing, her husband needed her attention, she drives others to activities, she drives others to activities, and she is super involved in her church and GFWC of Tennessee.



Yet she still traveled to the SER meeting in Baltimore without telling any of us of her health issues. Also, she had signed up for a committee to make some calls. Just days before major surgery I received detailed reports on all of the calls she made -- and she had gone beyond what was asked and provided even more information. To me, this is the true embodiment of "without self-pity." I am often ashamed of myself and am trying very hard to work on being more like Barbara, but I will slip -- sometimes that warm, muddy, muck of self-pity can feel so good!



And -- "without prejudice." Hearing "prejudice" my mind usually turns to race. In recent times I have added other categories: race, gender, religion, sexual orientation. I know that because of my family and my life experiences I am further along than many people, but I also know we all have a long ways to go. I still cringe when I think about running into a young lady that was a classmate of my son's. I hadn't seen her in a very long time and I asked what she was up to. She said she was working at a local law firm. I asked her which lawyer she worked for -- she told me she WAS the lawyer.



What made me automatically assume this very accomplished young woman was a secretary or paralegal? I am prejudiced against my own sex!

And while I am aware of the obvious prejudices, upon reflection I realize two very different types of prejudice that creep into our volunteer

work. One I am guilty of and the other I tend to feel. I will start with the one I am guilty of. I seem to have a hard time giving people the benefit of the doubt when they cannot fill my expectations – whether those expectations are legitimate or not! I tend to be judgmental if someone doesn't fulfill their duty in the way that I think they should – I have to ask myself who made me God?



I am working on being more forgiving and understanding of people's challenges and limitations, but it is a constant struggle with me!

The second type of prejudice is feeling on the outside – personally, I have not been in GFWC as long as others and I don't automatically know or understand the history or protocol.

I love this organization and I wished I could by osmosis absorb all the knowledge others have. But I can't which can lead to mine fields of doing or saying the wrong thing. So I work hard on asking those with more experience for input and I try to take time to explain to others with less experience the history. I think our clubs can often be guilty of this – bringing in new members and expecting them to automatically know how GFWC clubs work. We don't give them the tools they need like orientation and then

being judgmental when they don't do things like we are used to.



So, in conclusion – I often sit down to write about the Collect and think I don't have much to write and then am amazed how long these are! – I am going to work on turning my back on that muddy, mucky self-pity and try to deal with my prejudices of people not performing a certain way just because I think they should. It will be your job to call me on this when you see it happening!

Next month: May we never be hasty in judgment.

*NEWS FROM DEBRA BALL, CHAIR OF THE JUNIOR SPECIAL
PROJECT*

Each year, thousands of babies around the country are born too soon and face a lifetime of health problems. Some won't survive. Together we can spare more families the heartache of this serious health crisis. Please visit my webpage and sponsor me!

I am raising money and participating in [March for Babies](#) to make a difference.

Donating online is fast, easy and secure. You can do it directly from my page at www.marchforbabies.org/GFWCTN with a credit card, PayPal, or Amazon Payment. If you prefer, I can also accept cash or check.

Thank you,

Debra

Linda's Notes – February 2017

Linda Hershey
GFWC of Tennessee
lindahersheygfwc@gmail.com



SHINE A LIGHT ON SLAVERY DAY!



On Thursday, February 23, 2017, take part in the RED X campaign, standing up against Human Trafficking! The day raises awareness about modern-day slavery and human trafficking and started five years ago.

Two years ago, our very own Tennessee State Senator, Bob Corker, introduced official legislation to address the issue with the End Modern Slavery Initiative Act. He cited a chilling statistic: "More than 27 million people, many of them women and children, suffer under forced labor and sexual servitude in over 165 countries around the world, including our own," which, according to Coker, is higher than at any other time in the world's history.

What does the red X mean?

That red X means that you're telling the world that slavery still exists and you won't stand for it. By using your influence and your hand, thousands are carrying the message of freedom.

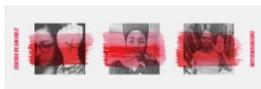
How can you help?

- Get out your favorite red lipstick and draw an X on your hand to show support (red markers work, too).
- Take a selfie showing your red X hand and post it to social media.
- Change your facebook picture to your new selfie, a Red X or one of the other End Slavery Logos. All facebook images can be downloaded in the END IT Toolkit here: <https://enditmovement.com/resources.html>
- The toolkit at the End It Movement site also includes versions for Instagram and Twitter. If you tweet, the official hashtags of the day are:

#EndSlaveryAct

and

#EndItMovement



While tweeting, using Instagram, and profile photo changes on facebook aren't the solution to the problem, they are an important and powerful way of showing solidarity and raising awareness. When people are flooding with red Xs across their social media streams, they will start talking and asking questions - it is a beginning!

END IT 2017!

Kathryn Hopkins
International Outreach Chairman
GFWC of Tennessee