



## 2008 GFWC Board Meeting News for You!

The GFWC Board of Directors' Meeting took place from September 4-7, 2008 in Washington DC, and GFWC-WI was represented by Mary Kaye Ernest, Jane Lee Nosal, Sandy Pecha, Marianne Potter, Paula Schlice and Susanne Way.

Here are some of the highlights for you:

- Lilly Ledbetter, a member of the GFWC Progressive Study Club in Jacksonville, Alabama, spoke to us about the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and gave us the details on her story and the discrimination case against Goodyear Tire that reached the Supreme Court. She has become the national face of pay equity since then.
- All the board members participated in the Day on the Hill meetings on Friday, where they visited their State Senators' offices to advocate in support of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. We were pleased to find out that Russ Feingold was a co-sponsor of the bill. At this stage they have 57 votes, and for it to pass in the Senate they need 60. If this is not achieved, the Act will have to go back to the House of Congress in the next Administration, and the process will start over again. GFWC has a distinguished history of advocating on behalf of issues of national importance, and by spending the Day on the Hill, GFWC did it again!
- As you know, GFWC is nonpartisan, and as such has always encouraged YOU to VOTE, and would like you to support voting in your local communities. During lunch, the speaker was Richard Kimball, president of Project Vote Smart. It is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that collects and distributes information on candidates for US public office. It bills itself as the voter's self-defense system. See for yourself by visiting [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org) or calling 1.888.VOTE SMART. I was impressed because it took them 15 years to build the database, and the data is checked 5 times!
- After lunch we visited our GFWC Headquarters located at 1734 N Street NW in Washington, D.C. It was my first visit, and I would highly recommend it. This is YOUR home, so be sure to visit whenever you and yours are in DC. The Women's History Research Center also impressed me. Headquarters has done much to preserve our history since its founding in 1890. If each club makes a donation to the WHRC we shall help our organization to do several things: expand outreach activities to students, teachers and others interested in women's history and the history of volunteerism; reward and honor those individuals who volunteer their time and services to support WHRC activities; preserve and maintain GFWC collections; increase Research Library acquisitions and provide internships and research fellowships.



- On Saturday morning, Jenna Bush Hager shared the story of her work as an intern for UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean. (And yes, the secret service were there too!) You can see her video by searching with her name on You Tube. You will cry when you watch it! One of the young women Jenna met during her time with UNICEF was Ana, who agreed to have Jenna tell her story so that others could learn about the hardship and hope that Ana's life represents. Jenna's book, *Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope* is definitely a book that you would want your club members to read! This story focuses on teenage pregnancy, HIV Aids and Advocacy for Children, the GFWC Junior Special Project.
- Rose Ditto, GFWC International President, has chosen Membership as her special emphasis during her administration (2008-10). We had speakers who addressed us on Baby Boomers and Generations X, Y & Z. I have material to share on the Baby Boomers, and for Generations X, Y&Z, you can read Sarah Sladek's book *The New Recruit*. She was a speaker and led a workshop on increasing recruitment, retention and how to market to potential members.
- Here's what's happening in GFWC Juniors:
  - Everyone is joining the GFWC Facebook Group ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and look for the one set up by Nikki Willoughby). If you need help getting on, please send me an email ([waysusanne@gmail.com](mailto:waysusanne@gmail.com)) and I'll invite you!
  - **October 24** will be the first ever **GFWC Junior Day!** Just like we celebrate Federation Day on April 24, now we will celebrate Junior Day! Organize something fun and simple and celebrate being Juniors!

In conclusion, I would encourage you to visit and use the GFWC website, [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org). There is a lot of information about anything you can think of and lots of opportunities to sign up for emails, subscribe for *The GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and you can order a lot of items at The Marketplace. Why reinvent the wheel when you can find all your resources in one place?

It was a privilege to represent the GFWC-WI Juniors and despite being very sleep deprived, it was a great experience. Bonding with other JD's was a pleasure too! We certainly worked hard and played hard! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

In Federation,

Susanne way