



THE STAR REPORT

Brought to you by your

GFWC Membership Star Power Team

ISSUE 1 – SEPTEMBER 2026



EVERY STAR MATTERS



A CONSTELLATION IS NOT CREATED BY ONE BRIGHT STAR ALONE. IT IS FORMED WHEN MANY STARS SHINE TOGETHER. EVERY MEMBER BRINGS UNIQUE TALENTS, EXPERIENCES, AND IDEAS THAT STRENGTHEN THE FEDERATION. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFERENCE YOUR LIGHT CAN MAKE.

What's Inside

Star Power Update – What's the difference between The Membership Unity Program and the GFWC STAR Recruitment Pin Program?

Action Center – Start investigating your Club Manual and the Membership Toolkits.

Membership Inspiration – Steal this STAR Idea!

Looking Ahead – Start Planning how your club connects with your community.

Wish Upon a Star – Tell us what you need to know.

Membership Chairman's Corner

Welcome to **The Star Report!**

One thing unites us all—we want our clubs and our Federation to thrive. That's what this newsletter is all about: sharing ideas, celebrating success, and giving every club the tools to build an even brighter future.

My hope is that *The Star Report* becomes your source for fresh ideas, practical resources, and inspiration to help your club grow. Together, we'll celebrate successes, learn from one another, and continue strengthening tomorrow's active role models—one club, one member, and one STAR at a time.

Welcome aboard. Let's make this our brightest year yet!
Karen Bard



Star Power Update

Two Star Programs. Two Goals. One Purpose: A Stronger GFWC.

The STAR Membership Unity Challenge and the **GFWC STAR Recruitment Pin Program** work together to strengthen membership in different ways.

The STAR Membership Unity Challenge (Strengthening Tomorrow's Active Role Models) is a club-focused initiative that encourages every member to help build stronger, more vibrant clubs. Through five fun challenges, clubs earn recognition by sharing their stories, celebrating successes, increasing visibility, and creating a welcoming culture that attracts and retains members.

The GFWC STAR Recruitment Pin Program is an individual recognition program that honors members who personally recruit new members into GFWC. Recruiters earn star pins after sponsoring five members, with additional pins and recognition circles awarded as recruitment milestones are reached. Awards are cumulative and continue across administrations.

Because both programs use the word **STAR**, it's easy to assume they're the same—but they are not.

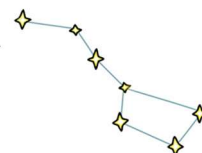
Think of it this way:

Unity Membership Challenge = Club growth through teamwork.

STAR Recruitment Pins = Individual recognition for member recruitment.

The two programs complement each other beautifully. As clubs participate in the Unity Membership Challenge, members who personally recruit new club members may also earn STAR Recruitment Pins. One program celebrates what we accomplish together; the other recognizes the difference one member can make.

Both programs are important. Both will continue. Together, they help ensure a stronger future for GFWC.



Action Center

If you haven't yet, join the Member Portal!
[Home - General Federation of Women's Clubs](#)

Go to your Digital Resource Library in the Member Portal on the top bar then use the search to find the following;

- Download the Club Manual
 - Page 194 introduces the Unity Membership Challenge
 - Page 198 explains the Star Pin Program
- Find the Membership Retention Toolkit
 - In it you will find the form(s) to fill out with instructions on how to send it.
- Find the Unity Membership Toolkit
 - Open it up and find a way to help your club earn a star point.

Membership Report is Due October 1: Membership chairmen need to report the increase in membership over the July, August and September months.



Membership Inspiration

Steal this STAR Idea!

Take GFWC Beyond the Club Room.

The next time your club volunteers, don't let your service go unnoticed.

Wear your GFWC shirts or name badges, display a club banner if possible, and place a small information table with brochures or rack cards nearby. If someone asks who you are or what you're doing, you've already opened the door to a conversation.

People can't join an organization they have not heard about, read about, or have never seen in the community.

STAR Tip: Every public project is also a membership opportunity. A little visibility today can lead to your next member tomorrow—and it earns you points toward your **S – Shine Challenge!** for the Membership Unity Challenge.

Award Entries are just around the corner!

Some of you may have written project award entries for the first half of 2026, some of you will be writing project award entries for this club year soon. If you are writing a reward entry or you want to go back and review your award entry keep these key words in mind when doing so; Diversity, Impact, Collaboration and Shareable. Make sure your projects are demonstrating inclusiveness through diversity, the impact your project has in your community, collaboration with other organizations and finally that it is easy for another club to adopt.

Looking Ahead

October, November, December we would like you to focus on: **How your Club Connects with your community.** Early in a club year is a great time to get your club's name out into your community and reconnect with organizations that support your work.

Wish Upon a Star



Send us your questions. We will be happy to address them in an upcoming **Star Report** or **Forum Series.** We want to hear from you and support you in any way we can.

Maria Uribe – Great Lakes Region – mfuribe8@gmail.com

Denise Raisanen – New England Region – draisanengfwc@gmail.com

Jan Conant – Middle Atlantic Region – janconant@icloud.com

Eileen Hageman – Mississippi Valley Region – eileen4gfwc@gmail.com

Charlene Ridgway – South Central Region – ladycharlene62@hotmail.com

Carrie Zimmerman – Southern Region – czim22@gmail.com

Sherri Hammons – Southeastern Region – sahammons@windstream.net

Shannon Bailey – Juniorettes – shannonbaileygfwc@gmail.com

Karen Bard – Western States Region – gfwcmembership@gmail.com