

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC - Junior Membership Public Issues Spring 2011 Bulletin

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Legislature

Have you ever wanted to learn and share legislature with your fellow club women? Go to the website below and you will be able to hear or view live or prior proceedings.

Website- <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was passed in 2011

Advocates say that New Jersey Governor Christie approved the toughest anti-bullying law in the country on January 6, 2011- see the article on the following website-

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/01/gov_christie_signs_anti-bullyi.html

The website below reports the highlights of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

<http://www.njbullying.org/upcomingevents.htm>

“America's first anti-bullying law that sets statewide deadlines for incidents of bullying to be reported, investigated and resolved.”

Under the new law, teachers and other school personnel must report incidents of bullying to principals on the same day as a bullying incident. An investigation of the bullying must begin within one school day. A school must complete its investigation of bullying within 10 school days, after which there must be a resolution of the situation.

America's first anti-bullying law to provide for an anti-bullying coordinator in every district, and an anti-bullying specialist in every school to lead an anti-bullying team that also includes the principal, a teacher and a parent.

America's first anti-bullying law to grade every school on how well it is countering bullying – and to require that every school post its grade on the home page of its website. Also on the home page of its website, every school must post contact information for its anti-bullying specialist.

America's first anti-bullying law to ensure quality control in anti-bullying training by requiring the involvement of experts from academia and the not-for-profit sector.

America's first anti-bullying law to provide training to teachers in suicide prevention specifically with regard to students from communities at high risk for suicide.

America's first anti-bullying law to apply not only to students in grades K-12, but also to higher education. Public universities in New Jersey will have to distribute their anti-bullying policies to all students within seven days of the start of the fall semester.

The law applies to extracurricular school-related settings, such as cyberbullying, school buses, school-sponsored functions and to bullying off school grounds that carries over into school.

The law requires a school to notify the parents of all students involved in an incident, including the parents of the bully and the bullied student, and offers counseling and intervention services.

The law mandates year-round anti-bullying instruction appropriate to each grade, and an annual Week of Respect in every school that will feature anti-bullying programming.

The law applies to all bullied students. In addition to protecting students based on the categories of actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, the law has clear language protecting students bullied for any other reason.”

The complete text of the new law is at www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/A3500/3466_R1.HTM and the legislature’s official summary of the new law is at www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/A3500/3466_S1.HTM.

February is Black History Month

How did February become Black History Month? Use this website as a resource to answer this question! <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history-month>

Have a discussion with your club to raise awareness about Black History Month.

What can we as juniors do to promote Black History Month in our community?

Offer to run library time for children in the neighborhood. Here are activities to do with children as a club-

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/black-history/>

Go to local banks and provide books for display and reading enjoyment that celebrate the achievements of African-Americans.

How about inviting prominent African-Americans from your community to a club meeting? Suggestions on who to invite include: professionals, local and state politicians, scientists, doctors,

lawyers, athletes, etc. Find out about his/her family history and what brought them to where they are today.

Learn and discuss with your club the history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)- <http://www.naacphistory.org>

View the 42nd NAACP Image Awards that are on Friday, March 4, 2011 8/7c as a club and discuss the performances and achievements of African-Americans today and throughout history.

Read poetry by the famous “Renaissance Woman” Dr. Maya Angelou. She is a world-renowned poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. Her website is- <http://mayaangelou.com/> If you miss doing this activity in February you can do it in April. Why? April is National Poetry Month!

Is your club diverse enough? If not, cater to recruiting women of color into your club. Advertise membership in different local newspapers to attract new perspectives. Here is one organization that may be a resource - Mocha Moms, Inc. <http://www.mochamoms.org>

Dr. Maya Angelou writes so eloquently on this topic... *“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”*

March is Women's History Month

Read and discuss as a group an article from NPR about the Senator Barbara Mikulski, on what it has been like being the longest-serving female senator:
<http://tinyurl.com/NPR-Mikulski>

Purchase and distribute books for local schools that promote women’s history. Create a calendar contest in your town or state pertaining to famous local women.

The Smithsonian Honors Women on the site below- Women who are honored on the site range from photographers, those who attended the Navy Academy to aviators!

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/womens-history/womens-history-month.html>

The website below will list “... ideas for celebrations and commemorations of Women’s History Month, including curriculum guides, activity suggestions, and web sites honoring the month.”

http://womenshistory.about.com/od/womenshistorymonth/Womens_History_Month.htm

In honor of Title XI passing in 1972- Host a “Girls in Sports Day” in conjunction with your local college or university. This will allow girls to receive instructional and/or visual exposure to

sports that are traditionally male dominated or that she may never had the opportunity to play. Sports can include wrestling, fencing, field hockey, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and the list goes on. For further information about what Title IX pertains to look at this website-

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_IX

Female Veteran Services

If you're a female veteran--or know one--check out this page for links to health resources:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

Contact the Women Veterans Program Manager at your nearest VA Medical Center for help with VA health care services:

- [VA Facility Locator](#)
- 1-877-222-8387

JUNIOR CLUB CORNER - Public Issues

This is an opportunity for clubs to share what they are doing throughout the state specifically related to the Community Service Program - Public Issues. Often a club has a great activity and other clubs would love to modify such an event because they thought it was so clever and well thought out. If you missed your district meeting, a fall/spring conference or the convention, here is your chance to catch up with what other clubs are doing in this area. E-mail me details about what your club is doing related to Public Issues and I will be sure to highlight your club in the next bulletin for the state to see you SHINE!

Look how the **Hasbrouck Heights Juniors** are promoting activities related to Public Issues:

Valentine's Cookie Bake: Members get together with children to bake/decorate cookies. They deliver the cookies to organizations around town as a "thank you" for their support- i.e. police, fire, emergency and some of the businesses that give them donations! What a tasty way to give back!

A St. Patrick's Party will be held on March 5th 7-11pm: An adults only fundraiser that they hold will be at the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) and it will be complete with an Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage. It is truly a cultural experience with the Irish dancers and bagpipers. They will have raffles, a tricky tray, a DJ, dancing and refreshments! Just using this location supports awareness to the men and women who that have served our county!

Please check the www.jerseyjuniors.com website for bulletins with ideas for upcoming projects for your club related to public issues. If you have any questions or suggestions for projects throughout the state feel free to contact Susan Fenker-Warner at - publicissues@jerseyjuniors.com.