



CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Leadership, Education and Development Seminar

2026 General Information

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher leadership roles or offices and serve with distinction. GFWC LEADS is held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following: overview of public speaking, time management, vision casting, and conflict resolution; explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance; outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol; and discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

CFWC has adapted the GFWC program for a seminar which is held in conjunction with the February State Board Meeting each year. The 2026 LEADS meeting will be February 26–28, 2026 in Santa Clara, CA. Every district is asked to send one candidate. During the CFWC LEADS CLASS, candidates will be evaluated by a panel of judges and one candidate will be chosen to represent California at GFWC LEADS.

GFWC has developed the following criteria for LEADS Participation

It is highly recommended that each State Federation or International Affiliate LEADS candidate meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman.
 - Exhibits a commitment to the Federation.
 - Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs and projects in which she is or has been involved.
 - Demonstrates leadership characteristics, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility.
 - Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC.
 - Agrees to share information gained from participation in LEADS with others in the State Federation.
 - Understands and accepts potential expenses involved in participation.
 - Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level (this criterion is highly recommended, but not required, in order to encourage potential leaders at the club level to apply).
 - Has not attended a previous LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once.
- Agrees to make every effort to attend the Fall GFWC Region Conference to report on their LEADS experience.

- Must be a member of a per capita dues paying club,.

Financial assistance for attendance to GFWC LEADS meeting

GFWC and CFWC demonstrate their commitment to training leaders by funding a portion of the expenses of candidates who are members of per capita dues paying clubs. LEADS candidates are asked to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment to the leadership development and training. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

GFWC funding for State Federation Representatives::

- Transportation and lodging stipend of \$325.00.
- Lunch during the LEADS program (no registration fee is required).
Checks will be distributed to candidates upon completion of the seminar.

CFWC Funding for State Representative to GFWC LEADS

- Per Current Standing Rule 27.
“The reimbursed expenses of the CFWC LEADS Representative to GFWC Convention shall be one-half (1/2) of a two-bed hotel room for two nights, one half (1/2) round trip airfare to the site of the convention, and Convention registration.”
Representative should contact the CFWC Director of Finance for submission of expenses.

DIRECTIONS TO APPLY TO BE A DISTRICT CANDIDATE AT CFWC LEADS 2026

Any member who meets the GFWC Criteria is eligible to apply through their District to be a candidate from that District. A fillable application form is available on www.cfwc.org “forms”.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO THE DISTRICT FOR CONSIDERATION: BY THE DEADLINE SET BY THE DISTRICT: the completed application, 2 letters of recommendation, a one page resume and a 5x7 photo.

DIRECTIONS FOR DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATE INFORMATION TO CFWC LEADERSHIP CHAIR:

After selection by the district, please send the application, the 2 letters of recommendation, a one page resume and photo to the CFWC LEADERSHIP CHAIR Vicki Holden at cfwcleadership@gmail.com.
(Please DO NOT use a zip or other compressed file to send the info)

This must be received absolutely no later than midnight November 13, 2025

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS

Questions Call or text Debbie at 209-815-1944 or email deblatasa@gmail.com



California Federation of Women's Clubs

Leadership, Education and Development Seminar

2026 APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Club: _____

District _____ Area _____

Please answer the following questions in as much detail as possible:
(Attach a separate sheet of paper if more space is needed)

List all local club offices and/or chairmanships held:

List all District offices and/or chairmanships held:

List GFWC club/district programs/projects in which involved:

List positions at the District, State Federation, and/or national level to which you are interested:

Are you willing to:

Cover costs to attend GFWC LEADS not covered by GFWC or CFWC?	Yes	No
Attend all of the GFWC Convention following the GFWC LEADS meeting?	Yes	No
Share what you have learned at LEADS at the Sept. CFWC board meeting?	Yes	No

Please answer the questions on the following page and include with application.

Return this application; along with 2 letters of support from active CFWC club members; a 5x7 photo; and 1-page resume by **November 13, 2025 via email to deblatasa@gmail.com** or, if necessary, via **USPS** to: Deborah Latasa, 13510 S. Union Rd., Manteca, CA 95336. Call 209-815-1944 if you have questions.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

LEADS APPLICATION, cont.

Answer the following questions in as much detail as possible

Setting the tone for your organization can be difficult at times, as leadership roles inherently come with demands and a glaring spotlight that can be unforgiving if not handled properly. What qualities of a leader do you think are necessary?

As leaders, we must be aware of the challenges involved in identifying and developing prospective leaders and create an action plan to ensure strong, competent leadership for the future. What strategies would you consider for growing new leaders?

An orderly transition of officers is the glue that holds an organization together. How would you handle the inevitable challenges of leadership transition?