

**The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.**

**Press Release**

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**Westminster, MD, April 26, 2015. GFWC Maryland Federation of Women’s Clubs, Inc. names Norma Jean Swam Outstanding Maryland Clubwoman for 2014.**

Norma Jean Swam, a member of the GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc., was named Outstanding Maryland Clubwoman for 2014 at the GFWC Maryland Federation of Women’s Clubs, Inc.’s 116th Annual Convention held on April 24-27, 2015 and will compete at the regional and then national level for the Jennie Award.

The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC Region for “outstanding commitment to club, community, and family.” The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym, “Jennie June.”  The award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

Swam had been chosen by the clubwomen of The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. as their nominee for the award.  Only one nominee per Maryland Club may be submitted.

The contributions of Swam in the calendar year 2014 included:

* Chair of the Flea Market Fundraiser
* Co-Chair of the Fashion Show and Tea Fundraiser for the Scholarship Committee
* Co-Chair of the Arts Community Service Program
* Organized Art Shows at the Carroll Nonprofit Center
* Hostess and support worker at the installation of Babs Condon as international President of GFWC in Phoenix, AZ in June 2014.

Swam has been a club member for 12 years and has served as both vice president and president of the Westminster woman’s club. She has served on all the Community Service Programs and most committees. She also chaired the District Education Committee, co-chaired District meetings and luncheon, chaired the state Leads Committee, and attended two International Conventions, two S.E.R. meetings, and numerous District and State meetings.

Swam says she was honored to be nominated by her Westminster club and to be chosen for this award by the Maryland organization, particularly since she is such a strong supporter of volunteer service to her community. She encourages others to find a place to volunteer whether it is your church, children’s school, or service club. Make a difference by “Living the Volunteer Spirit.”

Westminster Club President, Ginny Houser, says that Swam met and exceeded the criteria for the award, and that she demonstrates in word and deed what GFWC seeks to accomplish through its volunteers. “We are very proud of her,” said Houser.

The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC), an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With more than 100,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding. This year of 2015 marks the 125th anniversary of the GFWC.

For more information contact Mary Lou Poirier at gloupoirier@gmail.com.

Visit our website at [**www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster\_womans.html**](http://www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster_womans.html)**.**



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