



General Federation of Women's Clubs



W Y O M I N G

**Newsblast
November 2022**



**GFWC members
Since 1904**

Preserve our Past – Protect our Future Trish Peoples – GFWC Wyoming President

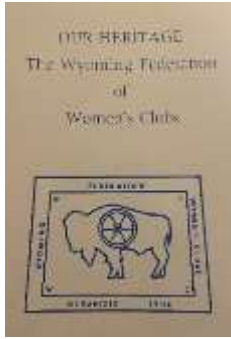


Many joyful events occurred in October. Thirty people attended our Fall Workshop, including our GFWC International Guest Wendy Carriker. In addition to an information-filled day, we found time for Wendy to get up close and personal with our Wyoming State Animal at Terry Bison Ranch (left).

Our GFWCW women did a fantastic job bringing items for reuse and recycling to the workshop. We gathered 44 pounds of socks that went to “Smartwool” to recycle into pet beds. Bras went to “Free the Girls,” where women rescued from human trafficking use them in their retail businesses. We also collected 48 pairs of shoes. Marcia Volner from GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs and Kathleen Petersen from GFWC X-JWC in Cheyenne show off the items loaded into my car (right).



GFWC Wyoming President Elect Karen Bard, Vice President Karen Kent and I journeyed across the state to help GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs celebrate its 100th Anniversary. It was well worth the trip! Many thanks to GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne for donating \$100 to the state’s endowment fund in honor of the Rock Springs’ Anniversary!



The “Our Heritage – The Wyoming Federation of Women’s Clubs” history is now on our website if you’d like to read about GFWC Wyoming’s history from its beginning to 1976. My goal is to have our complete history on the website by 2024.

Welcome GFWC Wyoming’s newest federated club! The state Past Presidents voted to make it official - GFWC Wyoming Past President’s club organized October 27, 2022, with 7 inaugural members. Way to go, Clubwomen!

Are you tired of getting spoofed emails from me? So am I! We are replacing the directory on our website with a version that does not include your emails. It may be “closing the barn door after the horse has bolted,” since we know someone somewhere has already downloaded the directory. However, once that person is done with us, it will prevent the next one from tormenting us. If you want a copy of the directory with everyone’s email addresses, contact me directly and I’ll be happy to send it.

Karen Bard - President Elect



The Woman’s Club of Rock Springs celebrated their 100th Anniversary, as reported in our President’s article. It was a wonderful event, and I came away so enriched by their accomplishments and service within their community.

To continue with the theme of learning from birds, this month I thought it would be nice to focus on color. Different birds have hundreds of different hues. Be bright and make sure you aren’t hiding what makes you one-of-a-kind. What I find amazing about birds and their feathers is that they can change dramatically with a shift of light. We all have different skills and perspectives to offer. Sometimes it just takes a different situation, or someone else to provide you with support or mentorship. Many of our members are hesitant to speak up, especially when they are new members. But one of the values of new members is their ideas and perspectives. Let their colors show brightly.

Birds are fascinating creatures that have so much to teach us. Your creative force might express itself through artwork, cooking, writing, volunteering, gardening, or playing an instrument. Or you may find your own unique way to bring your creative passion to life. When you find your way, nurture it to its potential so it may bloom from the heart. With

each different endeavor you are showing a different color of yourself. Let them all shine in their own way and time. But one of the benefits of club membership is what we can accomplish together. As an individual, our ability to meet the needs of our community are limited. However, together, all of us showing off our brightest colors, we can achieve so much more.

Vice President/Membership – Karen Kent

GFWC Membership, Fall Quarter (September, October, and November) is focused on RECRUITMENT. Gemstone is “Ruby - Share Your Passion!”

Recruiting new members is vital to GFWC clubs’ success. It is important we invite and encourage women to join our clubs. Recruiting new members should be an ongoing process requiring the focus and commitment of everyone. Recruitment is a year-round process, and the campaigns and reporting of new members reflect this fact. A club that recruits three new members during each season will end the year with twelve (12) new members! Clubs can plan creative membership campaigns and events around the many national awareness issues and commemorative days that are aligned with GFWC Community Service Programs and Special Advancement areas.

I would like to congratulate the Woman’s Club or Rock Springs on their 100th anniversary. Trish, Karen Bard and myself were delighted to meet many of the local ladies. WCRS was able to recruit a new member during their celebration.

The ladies in Riverton and Shoshoni are continuing the process of filling out paperwork, establishing a bank account and recruiting members for their club.

Thanks to Nancy Kaufman, we are officially starting the Past Presidents Club! Current members are Leslie Jo Gatti, Phyllis Salzburg, Mary Lee Dixon, Pam Crochet, Wendy Owen, Patty Benskin, Nancy Kaufman, and maybe Ann Norwood.

I was fortunate to have attended the Laramie Women’s Club fall bunko party. While switching tables numerous times, I can say that there was a bit of recruiting going on at that event.

There are so many different ways to bring new people into your clubs. If you ask someone to join, the worst that can happen is they say “No”, but they may just want to be asked. I encourage everyone to just “ask”. We are going to continue to build GFWC Wyoming – stay tuned....

Katherine Van Dell - GFWC W Treasurer

It’s that time of year where the following items need to be accomplished.

GFWC W State Dues: The dues (**\$24 per member**) are to be sent to Katherine Van Dell, Treasurer, before November 30. Address is 1732 Oxford Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

Dollars for Art Assessment (\$25 donation): These dollars are used to award the students that submit artwork to be judged during the state convention. Hopefully, each club will choose to donate the \$25. Please send any donation to Katherine Van Dell, Treasurer before November 30.

Membership Report: Please send your club's membership listing to the GFWC W State President Trish Peoples; GFWC W Membership Chair/Vice President Karen Kent; and Katherine Van Dell. If you have already sent this information to any of us, you do not need to do it again.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (kvandell1732@gmail.com or 307-630-5058). Thank you for all you do!

Lucy Russell - Spiritual Values

I wanted to share a story that I recently read in Chicken Soup for the Soul Think Positive, Live Happy. The Story was call #MakeaStrangersDay and was written by Jodi Renee Thomas. Jodi was a mother of 6 who generally worked double shifts to support her family. She received a text at the end of her shift that she had been fired. She went to the grocery store to pick up things for her meal that night even though she was crying and emotionally drained. As she wandered through the store, she spotted a package of meat that was half priced. While reaching for the package she saw a yellow envelope in the meat section. The envelope said "open me" and so she did. Inside was a message from a stranger which said "Everything is going to be okay, just continue to be a good person. Keep strong and you will be fine." Jodi was greatly affected by this message and so she declared that April would be #MakeaStrangersDay month. She purchased 100 cards and wrote uplifting messages on each one. She then went about leaving them in various places for others to find. The note she found changed her outlook on life. Maybe we could all take this on and #MakeaStrangersDay. We don't have to wait until April. What a perfect time of the year to start this little bit of heaven in Wyoming or the many places we all go. I appreciate all you do, and I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

Bev Campbell - Advocates for Children

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN:

Have you signed up at GFWC's Legislative Action Center? If not, please do so by checking information here: <https://www.votervoice.net/GFWC/home>. Once signed up, be on the lookout for information about Preventing Online Sexual Exploitation of Children and the EARN IT Act. This act was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in February 2022, but the bill still needs to be voted by Congress and signed by President Biden.

You will also hear about the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act. Let our congress know that you support the act and ask the bill be passed to protect our children.



November 14-18, 2022 ~ National Young Readers Week

Children learn between 4,000 to 12,000 words per year by simply reading, no matter what book it is! Young Readers Week raises awareness about the importance of reading, and it is a great time to help kids develop a fiery passion for reading. I hope your club will consider providing children with a book during that week.

Marianne Gatti - Civic Engagement and Outreach

It was so much fun seeing so many people at Fall Workshop this past month! We had some great workshops and informative presentations. As you may recall, we collected shoes for Nike grind. Well, your donations were still in such good condition that Veterans' Stand Down in Cheyenne was able to use them for their clients. How great for the three R's – reduce, reuse, recycle, that they have more useable life until they are recycled for kids' playground material.

As we approach November, please keep your local veterans' organizations in mind for projects this month. As always, I cannot wait to hear what your clubs have been working on.

Julie Gliem - Legislation and Public Policy

LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY SCAVENGER HUNT

Completed by:	Individual	Club	State
Contact Information:	Name		
	Mailing Address		
	Email Address		
	Phone Number With Area Code		

National GFWC is encouraging us to raise awareness regarding legislation advocacy on a local, state and national level.

As a state if we each participate, we can participate in a contest on the national level to have us recognized as Legislative Super Stars. This is also a way for us to promote Wyoming as a great place to visit, work and live. We are asking that each club participate in a meaningful way in this contest. For each item below, either take a picture or print out confirmation that you participated. Send the results to: Julie Gliem at GFWC Meadowlarks, 1805 Warren Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. You can

also email your results to Julie@USATaxWyo@gmail.com. Please take your time and work on this over the next year.

The Scavenger Hunt is attached to the Newsletter.

Marcia Volner - West District Liaison

Extra! Extra! Read All About It



Woman's Cub of Rock Springs Celebrated 100 years of volunteer service to their community on October 22nd. This was also the day that the announcement was made of the name change to the club effective January 1, 2023. Let's give a big welcome to Women's Club of Sweetwater County!

Linda Stowers - GFWC Signature Program – Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention

In November 1990, Congress issued a joint resolution authorizing the President to proclaim annually the month of November as the “National American Heritage Month.”

During the 2022 National Native American Heritage Month the theme is to explore the heritage, culture, and experience of Indigenous peoples both historically and in American life today, while also sharing the various ways the National Park Service collaborates with Indigenous communities.

Celebrating National Native American Heritage Month involves taking the time to recognize the rich diversities of the cultures that existed in America before it became the world power it is today. There are hundreds of tribes across the nation, but most people are only capable of naming a few, and even fewer are represented in the media of the

day. If you live in the Americas, National Native American Heritage Month is a great opportunity to research your local history and discover which tribes called the land you now live on home.

Plan a campaign to celebrate and honor Native American heritage and culture.

Phyllis Salzburg – Environment Community Service Program

Reusable bags for grocery shopping and general toting around are an easy way to help reduce the amount of plastic ending up in our environment where it shouldn't be. Just a few reasons why we should be using reusables rather than plastic bags:



1. **Because We Can.** If it's hard to imagine life without plastic grocery bags, consider this: plastic grocery bags were introduced at grocery stores in 1977. Generations of people got along just fine using their own bags to cart their purchases home – we can too!

2. **Conserve resources.** Twelve million barrels of oil are used to manufacture the plastic bags consumers in the US use each year. Residents of the United States use nearly one single-use plastic bag per person per day. Danish shoppers use only about four plastic bags *per year*.

Ex: You could drive a car a mile on the same amount of gasoline it takes to manufacture 14 plastic bags.

3. **Save Money.** Many stores in the US now charge customers for plastic bags. The average American family uses nearly 1500 plastic shopping bags each year.

4. **Protect Wildlife.** More than 100,000 marine animal deaths are caused each year when marine animals mistake plastic shopping bags in the ocean for food. Statistics according to Waste Management NW.



TREES -- President Trish, WCLC President Denise Lathrop and Environment Chairman Phyllis attended a Rooted in Cheyenne picnic for their fall tree planters and sponsors. Phyllis won a drawing for a crab apple tree, AND she got the t-shirt! Another tree for President's Trish's Special Project! Send Phyllis your numbers.



Karen Bard – President Laramie Woman’s Club



We had our 8th Bunco Party on October 23rd. It was our first fall, Halloween themed, party however. It was a grand success with everyone having a great time. Thank you again to the Eppson Center for letting us use their facilities for the event. The fundraising for this event was for the Laramie Plains Museum, for a renovation to the Carriage House.

Our upcoming November 10th meeting will be celebrating the military. We have Sergeant Shane Vincent from Casper coming to speak to us about being an honor guard for the Tomb of the Unknowns. He is the only Wyomingite to earn this distinguished honor. We will also have Chief Martinez from the University of Wyoming’s Veteran’s Services and Programs. The event is our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America to honor the 1700 veterans in our Greenhill Cemetery.

The cost, if you would like to attend, is \$15. For that \$15 your will purchase a wreath for a veteran, hear our wonderful speakers and get a chili and loaded potato lunch. You can rsvp to kcbard@charter.net .

Barb Robertson-President Meadowlarks



Several of our Meadowlark Ladies attended the State Workshop, it was a wonderful day spent with so many amazing women from across the State of Wyoming.

On October 25, the Larks provided bags for the annual Veterans' Standdown event. There were over 50 veterans who visited and received clothing, haircuts, bike repair, services, etc. The Meadowlarks provided bags that included winter gloves, socks, first aid kits, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, lotion, snacks, and other toiletries. The remaining bags not distributed at the Stand Down were donated to the Coalition for the Homeless.

Lucy Russell President-GFWC X-JWC

At our general meeting we heard from Debra Lee about her interesting life. We had many members who attended the Fall Workshop, and we gathered a lot of information to support us as club members. Trish Peoples did a fabulous job organizing this, we are thankful that she is part of our club. Our club is very busy finishing our plans for our fundraiser which will be on November 17th at the Texas Roadhouse. Tickets may be purchased from any of our members.

XJWC Annual Luncheon at Texas Roadhouse, 1931 Bluegrass Circle, Thursday November 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BBQ Pulled Pork, Corn, Caesar salad, rolls & drink - \$16.

If your group purchases 5 meals, they can be delivered to you. No drinks. Lunches can be picked up at Texas Roadhouse pick up window.

Please contact Carolyn Turbiville 632-8244 for tickets. Need reservations by Tuesday November 9 2022. Thank you for your support.)

We are doing a lot of collections to support our community. We are collecting coats, scarves, gloves, socks, sheets and blankets for the homeless. We are also starting a new project of knitting scarves and leaving them in places that people on the street can get and use to keep them warm. We also have decided to support Friday Food Bags and Meals on Wheels so that our members who individually support these organizations can be recognized for their work.

This month I am collecting books for adults, such as Novels, Fiction, non-fiction and historical books for the people who receive meals from Meals on Wheels. If anyone wants to help with this, you can contact me, and I will be glad to pick up any books you want to donate. We have collected almost \$100 for my president's project which is to plant 4 trees this year. I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving

Denise Lathrop – President WCLC



WCLC from Cheyenne wishes you all a Happy Thanksgiving! We are heading toward the last 6 weeks until Christmas House opens the first weekend of December. Every member is attending multiple workshops and sewing and sewing and gluing as fast as we can. This past week our social clubs have started up for the Fall. Afternoon Bunco is meeting regularly, and the Afternoon Gourmet groups have prepared and eaten their first meal. Our meal this month was Fall Harvest Celebration. Fall squash, pasta and peach cobbler

were so delicious if you would like one of these wonderful recipes, you can contact Denise Lathrop at bdlathrop@charter.net. The Bridge group is active as well.

Our Special Committee helped fund and build a Green House at South High School for the Special Needs Students. We would like to thank all those members involved in the project.

We invite everyone to Christmas House as we will have many wonderful things to sell you. The address 6701 Big Sky Trail Cheyenne.

Nancy Kaufman – GFWC International Communications and Public Relations Committee

GFWC International has announced its National Challenge for the 2022-2024 Administration – Friendsgiving! This is intended to thank and recognize community members/organizations that have supported our GFWC clubs. The flier is attached; all supporting documents can be found in the member portal under “F”. They have really done it all for us! Please have fun with this and document your event – however simple. Thank You!

General Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.

National Event



Why GFWC Friendsgiving?

Friendsgiving is the blend of the words *Friends* and *Thanksgiving*, and it refers to a large meal shared with friends either near or on Thanksgiving. But why should we make this concept of a meal with friends just for Thanksgiving time?

The **GFWC National Event: *GFWC Friendsgiving*** will help build the GFWC brand in your community: gather and thank leaders, individuals, and businesses who have participated in some way in club projects by their donations of items, time, gift cards, and/or sponsorship; and enlighten potential members to the vast reach of club philanthropy and grassroots volunteer dedication.

Reach out to organizations that have benefited from your hands-on community service and/or In-kind donations and invite them. Think of your local organization contacts your club works with, such as the humane society, domestic violence shelters, after-school programs, food kitchens and pantries, and the list goes on.

Who else to invite? Town/city leaders, local business owners, past club members, co-workers, friends, members from other social groups you belong to, ladies who have attended club events or meetings but never joined, and even the micro-volunteers who assisted your club over the past few years. Pretty much, *EVERYONE* your club members are in contact with could be invited.

The goal is to get together for fun and fellowship. It can be scheduled around any holiday, such as:

- *GFWC Friendsgiving* – Ringing in the New Year with Friends (New Year's)
- *GFWC Friendsgiving* – Show the Love (Valentine's Day)
- *GFWC Friendsgiving* – Join us for a "Hoppy" Celebration (Easter)
- *GFWC Friendsgiving* – It's A Federation Day Friendsgiving
- *GFWC Friendsgiving* – Let the Summer Warm Your Heart (summer months)

The possibilities are endless. GFWC clubs are creative – we encourage you to create your own ***GFWC Friendsgiving*** event.

GFWC Friendsgiving ~ a wonderful opportunity to be *Thankful* for the community's support and to BRAG about the good GFWC grassroots volunteering your members participate in while gaining a few new members in the process!

Follow us on Facebook: GFWC of Wyoming
GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfwcwyoming.org

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