

Wyoming News Blast

April 2020



Proud GFWC members

Since 1904

GFWC Wyoming President's Message - Mary Lee Dixon



Be Silly—Be Honest—Be Kind

April 2020!

Could anyone guess we would face what we are dealing with presently?! It has turned our schedules and comfort zones upside down, hasn't it? Hopefully everyone is heeding the advice of social distancing, limited interaction out of the house, if possible, and sanitizing everything in sight! I know it has set things back for Spring, but we'll get through this and be able to be back to "normal" someday soon.

GFWC still requires our reports be turned in and that is what I have been spending time doing while housebound. I've had a little more time to read all the club and creative award reports being sent to Washington, D.C. Wow, we were a busy bunch last year!

Most of you got the word on the photography contest through either News & Notes or the Clubwoman Magazine, but if you missed it, here it is: "The GFWC Executive Committee decided to cancel the photography contests for this year." Tammie McCoy, GFWC Photography Chairman. Additionally, you could guess the Youth Art Program for the state is cancelled for this year. Schools not in session coupled with no access made the decision for us.

I am happy to announce that we have a LEADS candidate this year: Heather Dodson from GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne.

I am not attaching the cumulative reports on our support of the Grand Initiatives but just the latest numbers I sent last week for the count. We'll have the final numbers in next month's News Blast. See the next paragraph for participating in the Federation Day Blitz. As for GFWC-Wyoming and Federation Day, I am waiting on our proclamation to be signed by Governor Gordon and sent back to me. I was planning on having it at our May get together but not sure that is going to happen either!

Participate in our legislative blitz to celebrate GFWC's Federation Day, April 24, 2020! Plan to have your club members together with family and friends call, email, or write your United States Senators and Representatives on that day and urge them to pass Miranda's Law (S. 1787 and H.R. 2793) and the 3D Printed Gun Safety Act (S. 1831 and H.R. 3265).

For those who have already called, sent messages through our Legislative Action Center, or even sent your own message through email, we encourage you to ensure that at least three others have done the same. You can find information sheets on these bills in the [Advocacy in Action](#) section of our [Legislative Action Center](#). Let's bombard legislators with requests to make two of our Brand Initiative bills into law.

Statistical Report on the Grand Initiatives

April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020

1. 9 Number of trees planted or funded during Arbor Day
2. 7 Number of projects done for women in the military, either active or retired
3. 765 Pairs of shoes donated to Soles 4 Souls and Nike "reuse-a-shoe" program
4. 414 Dr. Seuss books donated by clubs/members to local programs
5. 8 Dr. Seuss books donated by clubs/members to GFWC for DC
6. 6 Number of projects done by clubs/members on Martin Luther King Day
7. 42 Number of contacts to US Congressmen urging passage of Miranda's Law
8. 45 Number of contacts to US Congressmen urging passage of 3D Gun Safety Act
9. 4 Number of projects planned to celebrate 100th Anniversary of Women winning the Right to Vote, August 2020.

If any of the clubs did fundraisers for the March of Dimes, please make sure the funds get sent to our state treasurer, Marcia Volner before May 15, 2020 to be added to our total. We will send the accumulated dollar amount to the Agency Partner by May 30.



Stay healthy! Stay upbeat! Check on club members who may need a little extra help or care! Like this person, who is practicing the "Limp of Dimes."

April (Be Kind to Yourself Month)

Friday, Apr 3 - World Party Day (not with social distancing going on!)

Wednesday, Apr 8 – Draw a Picture Day (another way to keep occupied!)

Thursday, Apr 9 – Unicorn Day (let whimsy take you away for an hour)

Saturday, Apr 11 – Library Worker Day (appreciate them)

Monday, Apr 13 – Scrabble Day (play on-line!)

Wednesday, Apr 15 – Take a Wild Guess Day (kind of how we are planning)

Sunday, Apr 19 – Banana Day (buy one, eat one, bake with one)

Thursday, Apr 23 – German Beer/Wine Day (...my kind of day...sigh)

In Federation,
Mary Lee Dixon
GFWC-W President

Club News

Laramie Woman's Club President Adrienne Polis

This has been a strange and unsettling time for most of us. The Laramie Woman's Club has made adjustments to maintain the health and safety of our members and still find ways to continue with our club goals of community service, education and fellowship. Since our club members are using caution about face-to-face contact, many of us are having to stretch our technological skills. Here is a short summary of how we are coping. Firstly, our membership meetings for April and May were cancelled along with in-person board meetings. Officers and department chairs are contacting club members to check on their welfare and to stay in touch. Also, they have begun to use Zoom to have on-line meetings. The conservation, craft, and budget committees have used this technology to make plans and complete documents. The LWC board will use Zoom for its April meeting. Plans for ending the club year and completing any unfinished business will be discussed as well as the possibility of a summer club meeting.

GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs President Marcia Volner

We are not having meetings right now, and we have shut down the lending closet temporarily due to the virus. We have been keeping busy though! Our booster Tom Volner has been bringing home wheelchairs from the lending closet and cleaning and repairing them. We were given a box of footrests (these seem to walk off on their own occasionally) and have been able to get a dozen chairs back up and available when we reopen. Some other pieces have been cleaned and repaired as well. Another project we are starting is cards and notes to our convalescent care and assisted living centers. We are sending some Easter cards with candy and just thinking of you or cards with notes to be distributed to residents in Rock Springs and Green River Centers. Some residents get mail, but others do not. They are isolated more now with no visitors allowed and this is a way we can raise a few spirits. Another project some of us are doing is making isolation gowns and masks to drop off at our local hospital. Hope all of you stay safe and well!

Women's Civic League of Cheyenne President Linda Stowers

Women's Civic League of Cheyenne has been continuing to move forward, giving back to the Community of Cheyenne. On April 8th sent out checks to 14 grantees to the tune of \$38,860 from our Christmas House proceeds. In addition, the Scholarship Committee has been working in virtual mode to read and select recipients for scholarships to seniors.

During this time, we have also made over 200 masks and still going. We are helping the local homeless shelter by making baked goods for the shelter and the senior center. We made 40 blankets and 40 pillows for CASA and contributed cleaned toys and 20 blankets to the local safehouse. Our committees are continuing to utilize our dollars to help the growing list of community projects who need help. I'm so proud of our members stepping up and helping in this trying time.

Prior to the quarantine a group of us were able to visit one of the FE Warren missile sites on the Historical Air Force Global Strike Command Day of the Women 2020. On March 12th all the missiles in the US were commanded by Women. It was an awesome day for women and our country. I hope all our GFWC family remain safe and healthy.



Meadowlarks President Flo Beville

Wow, it's been almost a year since the GFWC Meadowlarks were federated at the end of April 2019. We were introduced at the State Convention in Saratoga, Wyoming last April, and we quickly got to work.

The first official meeting was held in May. In June the "Larks" participated in a local garage sale to raise funds, and in July we painted hallways at COMEA Homeless Shelter.

In August we made a delicious lunch and served it to the work crew for Habitat for Humanity. Also, in August, Treasurer Julie Gliem registered the club with the Secretary of State's office, and that was followed by getting the logo registered.

The Meadowlarks had their wrap-up meeting in September and discussed future projects. Officers were elected and dues were collected. The club signed up and participated in a craft show in October and November to raise funds.

In December four members traveled to Rock Springs to support the Rock Springs club during their Holiday House. Members visited the house Friday evening, and stayed overnight and had a great dinner.

The club also had a "Little Pantry" donated to it from St. Mark's Episcopal Church. These boxes sit outside churches throughout Cheyenne to enable community and church members to fill them with non-perishable goods, toiletries, and other items. Community members in need can take from these boxes for their families. The box the Meadowlarks received was placed in the local AMVETS Post 10 building, whom the Larks are partnering with. AMVETS staff painted the parlor, filled it, and it was ready for business by mid-January. AMVET and Auxiliary members have contributed food as well as the Meadowlarks. This project has ramped up since the pandemic started. Larks have been filling all the pantries around town and have recruited

other community members to do the same. There are more people in need, and the pantries are often in need of replenishing.

In January we baked and served cookies for the MLK March, and February saw us baking cookies for FE Warren AFB troops. Just recently, we created 43 activity boxes for CASA kids.

The Larks is a club of 15 members strong and is consistently searching for new projects to fill needs in the Cheyenne Community.

GFWC X-JWC President Trish Peoples

We finished up our fundraisers in March and paid out \$3,515.40 to both of our recipients: the Animal Shelter and the Unaccompanied Students Initiative. Even though our Bunco Fundraiser was cancelled on March 28, most of the participants asked us to keep their donations. What a wonderful community! We also donated to Friday Food Bags to make sure needy students don't go hungry while out of school. The winner of the XJWC fundraising quilt this year was Jill Burley from Colorado.



Speaking of quilts, one of the XJWC projects is making Final Salute quilts for the VA. Karen Bard from the Laramie Woman's Club knew this and donated red, white and blue fabric to our quilters. Here is the product of this joint club project!

News from our Chairmen

Membership Chairman Katherine Van Dell



The Magic of the Dance

Uncertain Times

With the club year coming to a close, members should be looking forward and considering what is next for them. At this time our members are extremely busy with community needs, such as sewing face masks for medical personnel, hospitals, clinics, doctor offices, school district food services, law enforcement, military, and many more. These groups know that they can contact a GFWC club and the members will respond. In Cheyenne, the homeless shelter kitchen is providing meals for residents in one of the senior centers. The kitchen staff reached out to our members for help in providing baked items, with many of our members baking and providing delicious homemade baked items. I know that activities such as these are going on throughout our state. The commitment of service to our communities make me extremely proud to be a member of GFWC.

What is next for us and when will we be able to complete our administrative year? It's a wait and see time so we need to continue serving our community. It is imperative that each of us stay well and stay safe. Stay positive as this too shall pass and together, we will get through this

unsettling time and come out stronger. However, first it is imperative that we finish out this administration year and that we look strong. There is one more membership report to complete by June 1 and I reference it below.

“If you invite people into your home, you’re very gracious and accommodating but too many times at meetings that goes away. New members don’t feel welcomed, valued, or interested. Lead by example.” Valerie Barnes, GFWC Membership Committee, at the GFWC WSR Conference in Las Vegas, September 14-16, 2018.

Retention

We need to go out and rebuild and strengthen our core group of members, remembering you cannot go out and recruit new players to a faltering team, right? Many clubs start up again in August/September – start the new club year off right by distributing member surveys – ask THEM what they liked/disliked over the past year. Ask the club officers to give a list of their “Wells & Betters” (what they thought the club did well over the past year and what they thought the club could do better). When you are honest with yourselves on your weaknesses, you can focus on your strengths and come back with a renewed sense of purpose and focus. (2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual-Membership) (FYI: A membership survey was produced in 2018-2019 and has been emailed to club presidents and/or membership chairs.)

Please mark your calendar with this important membership reporting date:

Spring Recognition

Mar, Apr, May; report due June 1

Send reports to GFWC Recruitment Campaign, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990 and also to me, Katherine Van Dell, GFWC-W Membership Chair, 1732 Oxford Dr., Cheyenne, 82001-1663.

Stay well, stay safe, stay positive!

Home Life Chairman Phyllis Salzburg

What to do, what to do.... Is there something that we can do safely to benefit our community and ourselves in these strange and challenging times? It seems there are lots more things than we ever could have anticipated or dreamed of just a few months ago.

The Cheyenne Animal Shelter asked community members to foster animals in their facility due to staff limitations. Amazingly almost all animals that were “fosterable” are sheltered in the community! Their annual fundraiser, the Fur Ball, has been rescheduled for July. Always in need of donations, orders can be placed through Amazon for delivery to the shelter. Who knew? Check with your local shelter to see what you can do to help while staying safe at home.

If you have family or club members in a residential retirement community, order a jigsaw puzzle of your family or a special, memorable club event. Mail order companies specialize in custom puzzles from photographs or perhaps a child’s artwork. Puzzles can contain as many as 2,000 or more pieces, or as few as 15. Just sending a card to a resident would help brighten their day.

Don't forget about the care/retirement center's staff! A call to the director may be needed to find out what they need, might like and can receive. Think beyond traditional baked goods and candy to items that are individually wrapped and can last awhile – clementines, healthy snacks like nuts, instant drink or vitamin C packets to add to water, protein bars. They might appreciate such items as hand soaps, lip balm, eyeglass or screen cleaners. Order and deliver the items safely, as directed by their management.

And, of course, making masks for workers, your club and community members is a much needed and worthwhile project right now. Instructions can be found on-line or contact Phyllis for a sample pattern. Take the opportunity to clean out years of accumulated fabric and sewing supplies, repurposing what you've been saving for a project you were going to work on some day. Now is the time!

Community Improvement Chairman Karen Brannon

Thanks to all the clubs who submitted CIP projects! We plan to show everyone what projects were done the last two years, at the next meeting. Please stay well!

Fundraising Chairmen Flo Beville and Karen Kent



Contact Flo at robi53@msn.com or Karen Kent at wyokents@msn.com for tickets for this cozy cabinet!

\$5 or SIX for \$20
Proceeds go to GFWC-Wyoming

The fundraisers also ask you to consider donating a bottle of wine for the Western States Region Conference in September.



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