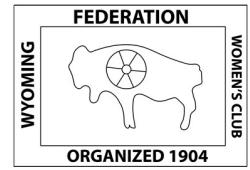


NEWSBLAST

TIMELESS STRENGTH & RESILIENCE OF WOMEN

THE INNOCENCE & POTENTIAL OF CHILDREN



The General Federation of Women's Clubs is proud to partner with the Safe Surfin' Foundation that promotes online safety through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to help families protect their children's privacy. This partnership opportunity came about thanks to Honorary Chairman of Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children David Coffey, Regional Manager West, of the Safe Surfin' Foundation.

In addition, the partnership directly supports GFWC Resolution 120-020 - Keeping Children Safe. To learn more about the Safe Surfin' Foundation's activities, visit:

<https://safesurfin.org/>

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STATE OFFICERS MESSAGES

Preparations for State Conference including getting membership certificates made, Memorials for passed members. Don't forget to get these to the appropriate officer.

PAGE 6

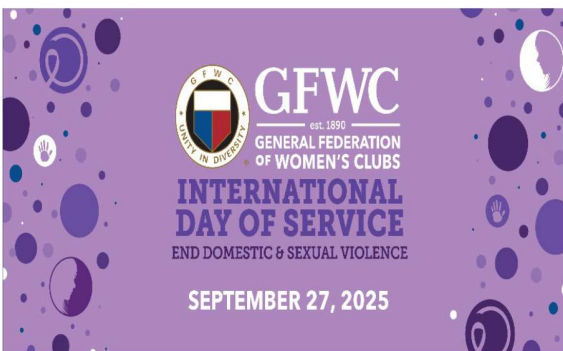
CLUB PRESIDENTS

Very exciting news out of the WCLC. Busy activities from the WCSC for their preparations for the State Conference. XJWC had a membership recruitment tea and their Bunco Fundraiser.

PAGE 8

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Congratulations to our very own [Marianne Gatti](#) for her recognition by her peers in the Wyoming Lawyer. Committee Chairs were hard at work in March as the prepared their Creativity Awards and reports to their respective National Chairs

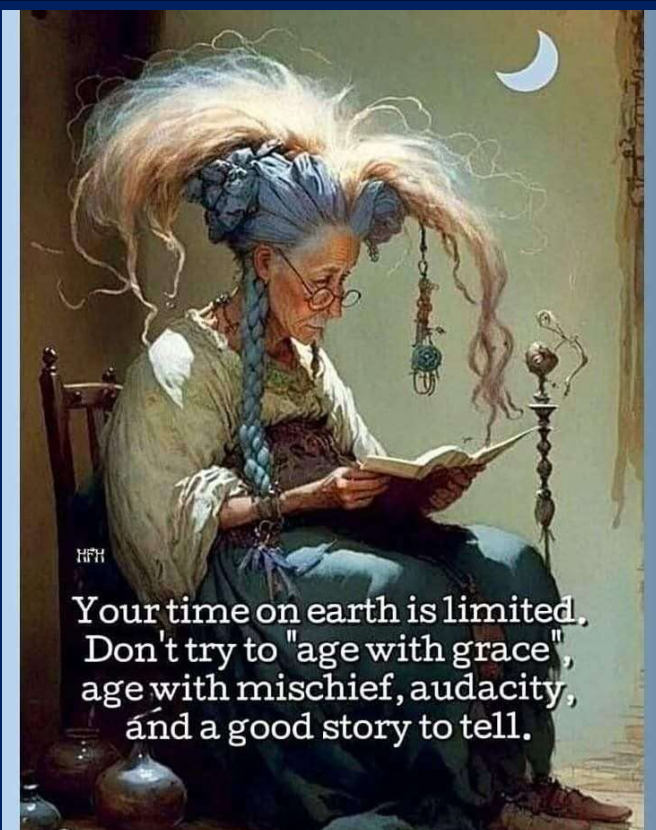


GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Have you registered for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service (GFWC IDS)? It is Saturday, September 27, 2025. This year we are working to combat domestic and sexual violence.

Go to the GFWC website www.gfwc.org and register your club today. Project ideas will be posted on the GFWC website.

Social media has shown that several of our members have been having some exciting times.



It seems they already live up to this quote.

IMPORTANT NEWS! APRIL STATE CONFERENCE IN ROCK SPRINGS

Member Anniversary Scrolls

The year is for 2024 and in increments of 10 years (2014, 2004, etc). The scrolls will be given at the state conference in April in Rock Springs. If you have not already submitted the names and years of membership for your members to Katherine Van Dell, GFWCW Vice President/Membership Chair, please do so as quickly as possible so an Anniversary Scroll can be produced.

(kvandell1732@gmail.com)

Memorials for Passed Members

If your club had a member pass during 2024 please be sure to have copies of your memorials sent to our Spiritual Advisor Annie Nelson.

(anniegowyo@aol.com)

DON'T Forget

If you are attending the conference, the chairs are standard folding metal chairs. Consider bringing a cushion to sit on for comfort.

REGISTRATION deadline is April 1st. But if you act quickly, we can accommodate your registration.

UPDATE on Flaming Gorge Tour

Be at the Parish Center no later than 7:45 for an 8 am start time.

Important Events and Proposed Ideas your Communication and Public Relations Committee

Memorial Day – May 26, 2025, consider a veteran's appreciation picnic in your local park. Post on your social media and contact your local VFW.

- Mother's Day is May 11, 2025. Make cards for the residents of your local nursing facility. Also, you can adopt several residents who rarely get visitors. Post their name and address on social media and watch the cards flood into them. With appropriate approval of course.

- Flag Day – June 14, 2025 – Organize a Flag Display at your local library or community center.

- Father's Day – June 19, 2025 – Same idea as Mother's Day

After you Register your Club for the 2025 International Day of Service

Prepare to make a meaningful impact on the 2025 GFWC International Day (IDS) of Service on Saturday, September 13. Eye-catching graphics are now available to help you with your plans as we stand together to end domestic and sexual violence. Your efforts will inspire others to join in!

On the GFWC website, click on Events and then to the International Day of Service Event page, where you'll find resources like:

- Facebook Cover Photo
- 2025 GFWC IDS Letterhead
- 2025 GFWC IDS Logos

Scroll down the event page to register your club for the day. Those registered will be recognized in News & Notes beginning on Thursday, March 27.

Gain new ideas, information, and resources by browsing Member Resources. Additional ideas are added every week. Stand united with GFWC against domestic and sexual violence. Working together to make a significant impact.

Please start thinking and planning NOW for participating in this important event!

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR LAC

If you haven't created an account on GFWC.org or registered to be part of the Legislative Action Center, it isn't too late. As you will read in the Legislation and Public Policy Section, our State Chairman, Trish Peoples, highlights that legislation is coming up around [Human Trafficking](#). Our voices need to be heard. You can choose to contact your representatives yourself, or you can register to be part of the LAC so that you will receive emails on when critical legislation that GFWC supports is coming up for a vote.

This QR code can be used to take you to the LAC. But first you need to create an account with GFWC. You will not get any emails that you do not voluntarily sign up for yourself.



GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee

Our very own Nancy Kaufman Serves on this committee and represents our state and her club at the national level.

Thank you to Nancy for her continued service and commitment to GFWC.



GFWC MEASLES MISSION

Shot@Life, a grassroots advocacy campaign for global childhood immunization and a GFWC affiliate organization for over twelve years, is excited to work with clubs on GFWC's Measles Mission. With measles cases rising around the world (including in the U.S.), this initiative will help provide lifesaving measles vaccines to children around the world. For only \$5—the cost of a cup of coffee—one child can be protected for life against measles. By raising \$80,000 from 2024–2026, we will help protect 16,000 children from measles.

Check out the online fundraising hub [here](#), where you can donate or find the tools to get started with fundraising. We appreciate your support in getting word out to your state about this exciting new initiative, which is exclusive to GFWC clubs.

This is a wonderful project to support one of our National Affiliate Organizations and support this Administrations focus area.

Messages from your Executive Officers

PRESIDENT

Karen Bard

Preparations for the April Conference have kept me busy and I made a trip to Rock Springs to meet with the planning committee. The conference, I believe, will be great thanks to all of their hard work. Thank you in advance for that.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone who is attending there. I know the deadline was April 1st, but call Susan Arguello ASAP if you have let it slip through your fingers.

For National Conference in June, I do not have a roommate so if anyone is planning on attending and wishes to split hotel costs with me, please get in touch.

We have made good progress in getting our members signed up for the LAC. However, many members have not taken action yet. I implore you to consider signing up. As you will see in this issue there is a bill needing our support in the area of Human Trafficking. This is an important bill and our voices need to be heard. Again, if you sign up, you will ONLY receive one email asking for your support on each of the bills going before congress. You won't get spammed to death as your reward for taking action,

Do you every wonder what happens to all of those reports and statistical information that we send to National? Here is one answer.

Your National Executive team spent one day on Capitol Hill during their recent time together in Washington DC. During that One Day they visited over a dozen Senate Offices urging their respective Senators to support education and prevention and increased funding and program

resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and child sexual exploitation. During these meetings they were able to share the program statistics gathered from the state federation reports with those Senators. They were able to speak about how our organization with all its member clubs are supporting issues via the Signature Program and Juniors' Special Program.

I am positive that when all the states, territories and international countries numbers are added up that they provide a very powerful message as to how and why this is important.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Kent

Diana, Princess of Wales

In 1981, Diana Spencer became the first wife of the heir apparent to the British throne, [Charles, Prince of Wales](#). Their wedding reached a global television audience of more than 700m people and she continued to attract much media attention, even after her divorce in 1996. [Princess Diana](#) became well known internationally for her charity work for sick children, the banning of landmines and for raising awareness about those affected by cancer, HIV/AIDS and mental illness. Initially presented as the heir to the throne's dutiful, innocent bride, Diana transformed herself into an outspoken and controversial figure. The People's Princess may have been the first among the Royals to speak her mind forcefully, even breaking protocol many times to make a point. Most of the time, she preferred not to wear hats or gloves, especially so she could feel one with the people she was shaking hands with. She did not shy away from showing her affection to her children in public and took them along on most royal tours, even when they were little babies.

We all have a voice. Let's use it for good.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT –

Katherine Van Dell

Helping People, Changing Lives: 3 Health Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteers make an immeasurable difference in people's lives and often serve to help others. Did you know that volunteering can benefit your health as well?

The good news is that you don't need to be a philanthropist or senator to enhance or create change in your community. Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in people's lives. Your actions, big or small, can help others and benefit your health.

Research has shown that volunteering offers significant health benefits, especially for older adults, including:

1. Improves physical and mental health.

Volunteer activities keep people moving and thinking at the same time. Research has found that volunteering among adults provided benefits to physical and mental health. Volunteers report better physical health than non-volunteers. Research also has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older.

Volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. By spending time in service to others, volunteers report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both given and received, which can have a stress-reducing effect.

Reduced stress further decreases the risk of some physical and mental health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety and general illness. In addition, people who volunteer have lower mortality rates than those who do not, even when controlling for age, gender and physical health.

2. Provides a sense of purpose and teaches valuable skills.

The work that volunteers provide is essential to everyday activities, giving volunteers a sense of purpose, especially when giving their time and talent in the areas they find meaningful. Older volunteers experience greater increases in life satisfaction and self-esteem.

3. Nurture new and existing relationships.

Volunteering increases social interaction and helps build a support system based on common interests. One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to participate in a shared activity.

In many cases, volunteers have diverse backgrounds, which helps expand their social network and allows them to practice social skills with others. People volunteer for different reasons, such as exploring careers, sharpening skills, staying active during retirement, meeting new people and serving their communities. Yet all volunteers shared a common desire to improve the health and welfare of people in their communities.

Angela Thoreson, L.I.C.S.W. Psychiatry & Psychology

Volunteer in your community. Join service organizations. Doing so will make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and friends – and also can improve your health.

Messages from your Club Presidents

Kristin Riley – Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

Spring is my favorite time of year. The weather is getting warmer, with an occasionally chilly day, thanks to Wyoming's Mother Nature indecisiveness and the pop of color as grass is starting to turn green and we are seeing buds on trees; with flowers peeking out of the ground. March is one of my favorite months for

the Women's Civic League. This month is one where we as a whole club decide on what organizations will benefit from and receive grants from our annual fundraising, Christmas House. I am proud to say that this year we were able to give \$49,247.46 back to Laramie County through eleven grants supporting those in Environment, Youth and Family, Senior Services, and Arts and Culture. This was a record year for our Community Grant Committee, as we received over forty-five grant applications, making the decision on the recipients a hard one. Our Education and Library committee met to discuss scholarships and potential grant requests that we could support. Our Environment committee participated in The Greater Cheyenne Greenway's Thankful Thursday and donated a Planting themed gift basket that was auctioned off to help raise over \$18,000.00 for Cheyenne's Greenway! A shout out to our Communications & PR chair for starting our Tech Tips section in our monthly newsletter, Kaleidoscope. We are hoping that this section of the newsletter will help members be able to navigate all the diverse ways we are communicating our club events and needs through technology. As our club year is coming to an end, we are packed full for the next two months with multiple projects in all our service areas!

Marcia Volner – Women's Club of Sweetwater County

We are having busy time getting ready to host you all for the conference in April. We are excited to see all of you here and members are making special items as gifts. The Flaming Gorge tour will be an interesting outing on Friday as well. We need 20 people signed up for it to be a go so hope many of you are taking advantage of this opportunity. We are selling tickets to the fundraiser on Friday and hoping to raise a lot of money for the state as well as for our adaptive playground we are working toward for an Elementary school in Rock Springs. Besides this event we are continuing to support our community. We had the local

director of United Way as a speaker at our March general meeting. We learned about what they support in our community. We have also added another new member! Hope to see you soon.

Lynn Prichard – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club

Greetings from Laramie. I just returned from a wonderful trip to the UK. Lots of great sites, food and fun. But now it's back to work. April will be a busy month for Laramie Woman's Club. We have nominations for new officers, as well as elections in preparation for our May installation. We are working hard to prepare for our Art, Wine, and Cheese Event on Friday April 11 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. If you are close by, please come by for some wonderful art provided by local Wyoming Artists as well as art students from the University of Wyoming. The cost is \$20 per person and includes wine and some tasty treats. Proceeds will go towards our scholarship fund. Our other fundraiser is Flamingo a Friend, a local event. Here's hoping for some spring like weather for April. I hope to see you on April 11.

Patty Benskin – GFWC XJWC

XJWC held a Membership Recruitment Tea on March 16. The event was enjoyed by our members and the club will hold more events similar to this in the future.

April finds the club voting on new bylaws and electing officers. One of the club's biggest fundraisers will be held on April 12. The Annual XJWC Bunco Party will be held at the Moose Hall in Cheyenne at 12:00noon. There will be raffle prizes, a half and half raffle and Bunco prizes. Proceeds will benefit the Cheyenne Animal Shelter and Safehouse. All are welcome!

In May the club will be holding a special celebration for the 85th Anniversary. XJWC started as a Junior Women's Club. When the

membership aged out, they opted to stay together as a general club by renaming themselves XJWC or the Ex Junior-Women's Club. The club has contributed greatly to the Cheyenne Community over the years with a number of service projects and participation in community events. Club members are proud and excited to recognize 85 years of community service.

Messages from your Committee Chairs

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Trish Peoples

As I mentioned last month, the Wyoming legislature chose not to fund the High Plains Research Center and Arboretum's efforts to become a state historic site. We then had a few uneasy weeks when we were told that the money already in the budget would be taken away. However, our governor had a change of heart, and the High Plains Research Center and Arboretum will be able to use committed funds to continue its maintenance. Arboretum personnel are waiting to meet with State Parks to develop a plan. This doesn't mean it is a state historic site; that battle will need to be continued. For those of you in the Cheyenne area, there will be a plant sale on June 7 at the Botanic Gardens to help support the Arboretum.



A GFWC alert went out this week to support survivors of **human trafficking**. Proposed legislation, the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, would provide federal criminal relief to survivors of human trafficking who committed a non-violent offense as a direct result of having been a victim of trafficking. GFWC supports efforts to strengthen

collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement, and improve resources available to survivors. This is a great opportunity to contact your lawmakers and say "yes" to help victims. Our GFWCW State President is involved in this effort and is bringing in a representative from "Truckers Against Trafficking" to speak at our State Convention in April. I was excited to see a "Truckers Against Trafficking" decal on a semi just this week. It's a movement!

At the National level our International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Suellen Brazil attended her second Anti-trafficking Policy Roundtable today in the U.S. Senate, hosted by Anne Basham, CEO of Ascend Consulting and speaker for the GFWC August Board of Directors Meeting.

The event featured a powerful lineup of committed speakers, including Senators and Representatives sponsoring crucial legislation, alongside personal testimonies from survivors. Today's presentations highlighted the urgency of addressing human trafficking, a \$270 billion industry described as modern-day slavery that affects both labor and sex trafficking victims.



According to Brazil, "Today's roundtable underscored GFWC's unwavering commitment to combat human trafficking. We must continue to advocate for survivor-centered policies and actionable initiatives that

ensure justice, support, and real opportunities for victims. Let us remain guided by their voices and resilience—every delay is a life left in the shadows."

Currently, GFWC is advocating for the adoption of the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2025.

Take action now in the Legislative Action Center or call your Representative.

JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Marcia Volner

April is another month full of opportunities to celebrate, recognize important days and work on special projects.

Close to my heart is Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd. Make

autism awareness ribbons and pass out along with a card with information on

Autism. Host a day for first responders to learn more about autism and how to recognize it and work with the person. The incidence of autism is 1 in 36 children diagnosed with autism.



Easter is April 20th this year. Host an egg hunt in a local park or have an Easter coloring contest with a prize. National kindergarten day follows on the 21st. What a great excuse to go into a classroom and provide a fun activity.



Earth Day is on the 22nd. Does one of your local schools need trees planted? Can you help plant some trees in your community and get young people involved with raising the money and/or planting the trees? Many areas need reforestation due to fires. Hope April is a fun and active month in your club. Happy Easter!



ESO

Leslie Jo Gatti

There are a couple important reading dates coming up in April.

April 12 is DEAR Day – Drop Everything And Read.

April 30 is Children's Book Day. Celebrate by donating books to a school or library program. March was the final month for our Reading Scavenger Hunt. I hope you found something to read that is out of the norm for you. I certainly did. Here is the list of reads I have received since last month:

September – nonfiction

Karen B – Lethal Tides by Catherine Musemeche

October – borrowed from library

Karen B – Every Wild Heart by Meg Donohue

November – funny book

Karen B– Don't Turn the Page by Rachelle Burk

Cindy – Gettin' Old Ain't for Wimps by Karen O'Connor

Marianne – Shakespeare for Squirrels by Christopher Moore

December – book under 150 pages

Karen B - Blazing Wyoming Bonnets by Carol Mead

Maggie - Cherokees of the Smoky Mountains by Horace Keohart

January – Wyoming author

Karen B – A Woman's War by Marjorie Daley

February – poetry or short stories

Karen B – Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul by Jack Canfield & Others (Short Stories)

Marianne – Zen Inspirations by Miriam Levering (Poetry)

March – taking place in another country

Maggie – Sweet Meadow Murder – Donna Doyle (Canada)

Karen B – Resistance Women by Jennifer Chiaverini (WWII Germany)

Leslie Jo – An Unorthodox War by Marjorie Daley (WWII France & England)

Marcia – Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty (Australia)

Marianne – The Women by Kristen Hannah (Viet Nam)

I have had 4 members from across the State who have given me titles for all 9 months, plus 4 others who read some of the categories.

There was a total of 48 books read. Great job! I hope everyone enjoyed the Scavenger Hunt. Let me know if you have suggestions for the fall.

I received reading numbers from Sweetwater County, Civic League, and Laramie for certificates. If I have missed anyone, please, let me know.

Continue your reading during the summer. There is a GFWC ESO Book Club on Facebook if you want to connect with others for book discussions.

I hope to see everyone in Rock Springs for the Annual GFWC Wyoming Conference.

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Jennie Malonek

I come from a family of collectors. My mom collected owls and my dad collected Norman Rockwell plates for her, over 500 live under my staircase. My dad collected toy cars and stamps, which now live with my older half brother. I have 14 bookcases full of books, but I also have an extensive music CD collection, a DVD collection, a sports pin collection, an anything UCLA collection and a small rock, mineral and fossil collection.

Libraries are not just full of books. They are full of collections. Some have art. Ours has board games! Libraries are not just public buildings, they can be found in the nooks and crannies of our homes. What you collect and how you collected it, says a great deal about who you are and what you value. But I believe that all collections become more valuable when they are shared.

So display those pins, hang those plates, play those CDs and DVDs and share who you are.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Marianne Gatti

Spring has sprung! At least until the snow arrives again this week.

With the promise of warmer weather, it is time to begin looking forward to your club's outdoor projects. Are you cleaning up a Greenway or an

interstate exit? Are you beautifying the local cemetery by learning how to clean tombstones like a sister club in Mississippi? ([See attached for a feature about GFWC Mississippi Poplarville Women's Club](#)) Whatever your clubs are planning, I look forward to hearing all about it.

(NOTE: If you want to look into the Tombstone project, reach out to your local Daughter of the American Revolution Chapter. Many of them have projects of this type going on and they have information on how to clean them without causing damage. – Karen Bard – Jacques Laramie Chapter NSDAR)

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone (and, hopefully, the warmer weather) in Rock Springs the end of the month.

LEADERSHIP

Kristin Riley

I came across a sign the other day that inspired this month's Leadership article. It stated, "NEVER SAY 'That's not my job', that oozes arrogance and laziness. Chip in to help with what needs to be done, even if it's not your responsibility. Do what needs to be done or help someone find the solution. Even when nobody's watching."

Great leadership and integrity are deeply intertwined, as both are essential for earning trust and fostering a positive environment. At its core, integrity means being honest, ethical, and consistent in your actions, even when no one is watching. A leader who demonstrates integrity not only sets a moral example but also inspires those around them to follow suit. A leader with integrity gains the respect of their team, as their words align with their actions, and their decisions are guided by a sense of fairness and responsibility. This trust creates a culture where people feel valued, motivated, and willing to give their best effort. Moreover, integrity helps leaders navigate difficult situations with authenticity, allowing them to make tough calls while maintaining their credibility. Being a great leader is more than just making decisions or giving direction; it's

about leading with honesty, ethics, and accountability. Leaders who prioritize integrity empower their teams to thrive, building strong relationships and lasting success.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Trish Peoples

Just a reminder. The deadline for all three GFWC Wyoming Scholarships is April 15.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Lynn Foreman; National Chairman



Caregiver Authority - Weary of condescension from a physician years ago regarding my wife's condition, I leveled my gaze at him and stated, "Doc—I was taking care of her when you were a junior in high school. So how about we keep this in perspective?" We may not know the science, but we know our loved ones. That knowledge and experience provide us with something I coined "Caregiver Authority". Quality practitioners recognize the benefit of enlisting our hard-won insights. After dealing with 100+ physicians and countless nurses, I learned years ago that training doesn't make one a better human being—it simply provides a skill set. Sadly (for some), those skill sets can elevate a sense of importance. Part of our job as caregivers is to advocate. And sometimes, that means standing up to people who are dismissive or look down upon others. It's uncomfortable to wield caregiver authority, but if we don't, what happens? If we're

wrong, we apologize and make amends to the best of our abilities. If they're wrong, the consequences are far more dire. *"I spend half my time comforting the afflicted, and the other half afflicting the comfortable"* Wes Stafford. Peter Rosenberger hosts the nationally syndicated radio program, *Hope for the Caregiver* and has served as a caregiver for his wife, Gracie for four decades.

www.peterrosenberger.com

Caregiver Authority

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"I spend half my time comforting the afflicted, and the other half afflicting the comfortable"
Wes Stafford.

Peter Rosenberger hosts the nationally syndicated radio program, *Hope for the Caregiver* and has served as a caregiver for his wife, Gracie for four decades.

www.peterrosenberger.com

Messages from your District Liaisons

WESTERN DISTRICT

Marcia Volner

Efforts continue to get new clubs started in the West. Any ideas of who to approach would be greatly appreciated. Our Fremont leading Ladies could use some help with membership so please let them know if you have ideas on new members.

Event Calendar

April, 2025

Laramie Woman's Club - Art, Wine & Cheese Event – April 11th from 6 – 8:30 pm at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center

XJWC – Bunco Party – April 12th

GFWC Federation Day – April 24th

GFWC Wyoming State Annual Meeting in Rock Springs – April 25th – 26th, 2025

June, 2025

GFWC International Conference in Atlanta Georgia – June 4th – 9th, 2025

September, 2025

GFWC Western States Regional Conference in Long Beach, California – September 11th – 14th, 2025

October, 2025

GFWC Wyoming Fall Workshop, location TBD, October 10th-11th, 2025

Meadowlarks – Meadowlarks Market October 25th, 2025

GFWC Federation Day April 24th, 2026

GFWC Wyoming State Conference in Cheyenne, May 1st – 3rd, 2026

If your club has an important event, fundraiser etc. Please send the information in so that it can be included in this list.

ARTICLE ABOUT MARIANNE GATTI



Friends of the Bar

Marianne Gatti

Basic Bio:

Marianne attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie for her undergraduate studies, earning a BS in Political Economics in May 1995. She later received her JD from California Western School of Law in San Diego in December 1999. It was in San Diego that she met her husband, Todd Coyle, a US Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton. Her career, while also being a military spouse, took some unconventional turns over the years, including an extended period of geo-batching, obtaining multiple licenses, and engaging in remote work that began while stationed in Japan. She is currently a partner at Parlatore Law Group, a cloud-based firm with no brick-and-mortar offices, focusing her practice on mediation and arbitration. Marianne and her husband moved to Cheyenne in 2021 following his military retirement.

What did you do before law school?

I had actually planned to go into teaching. Unfortunately, UW changed its requirements while I was in school, and I was not prepared to spend two additional years on my undergraduate degree. Upon graduation, I moved back to South Korea to teach English. I say "back to South Korea" because I spent two years of high school in Seoul. During my tenure teaching, I met a lawyer from Columbia who inspired me to apply to law school when I returned to the U.S.

What is it like working for a cloud-based firm?

Working for a cloud-based firm offers a level of flexibility that I have really come to appreciate. I can take my computer with me and hop online whenever I need to. As a military spouse, this was invaluable when we PCS'd from Japan back to the U.S. We have less overhead and can pass those savings along to our clients.

What is the best advice you have for anyone looking to enter a traditional legal professional environment?

Work in a law office before applying to law school. Whether as a clerk, runner, or paralegal, I think it is imperative to understand the culture and see some of the day-to-day stressors firsthand. I believe those who had prior work experience in

a law office had a significant advantage, both in school and when starting in the profession.

What do you do in your free time?

I am usually reading, cooking, or traveling. I have always been an avid reader, and book clubs are usually one of my first finds when I move to a new location. I enjoy engaging in discussions about our reads and use book club selections to pull me out of my usual genres.

Over the past few years, I have had to re-learn many of my cooking skills as I had to go gluten-free several years ago. Fortunately, gluten-free and high-altitude cooking and baking work fairly well together. My mother says my gluten-free chocolate chip cookies are better than the regular ones I used to bake. I felt such a sense of accomplishment when I finally found a bread recipe that works every single time.

As for travel, if I haven't been there, it's on my list. My most recent overseas trip had me backpacking in Africa for just over five weeks last summer. I traveled to eight countries, saw four of the Big Five on game rides, walked on Roman ruins, and had lunch overlooking the Sphinx. I wanted my 50th birthday to be epic, and I succeeded! Domestically, my husband and I enjoy road trips, especially to National Parks. We most recently visited Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Where is your favorite place in Wyoming?

Up in the Wind Rivers. This is our fishing and hunting area. The sunrises are surreal, and the peace of being the only one around for miles is good for the soul. Being out on the side of a mountain is my happy place.

What is something nobody would ever suspect about you?

That I have had an incurable nerve disease since I was 16. I was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, which now falls under the rubric of Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome. I was supposed to be wheelchair bound within five years of my diagnosis. The doctors told a stubbornly independent 16-year-old she would never drive again, among other things. Suffice it to say, I worked hard to make sure they were wrong on their assessment of how my diagnosis would play out.

How do you give back to your community?

By being active in several GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs), including Women's Civic League of Cheyenne, Women's Club of Sweetwater County, and NoCo Larks. I am active on the GFWC Wyoming Board. Additionally, I am on my second cohort as an appointed mediator for GFWC International. Civic engagement has played a significant role throughout my life and is a way to plug into a new community.

What makes you smile?

Life is better with all my critters. Monty, our senior Great Dane mix, road trips with us. He gets the entire cargo area of my SUV, and we pack into the back seat. We have three cats, Abigail, Autumn, and Rudy, who run the house. And we have six chickens. If you have never watched chickens run or waddle when they get excited to see you, it is the funniest thing; I laugh at them every day.

What is your current bucket list trip?

Antarctica. That will complete all seven continents for me. As I said earlier, if I haven't been there, it's on my list.

I was an Army brat before I was a Marine spouse. I have

www.wyomingbar.org

lived in Europe, Asia, and all over the U.S., but I have been a Wyoming resident my entire life.

I love that Wyoming is the Equality State. Not only were we the first to allow women to vote, but we also had the first female governor and the first female justice of the peace.

Follow Marianne to learn more about her unique career: <https://linktr.ee/mariannegatti>. ♦

Interested in being featured in Friends of the Bar?

Contact Kristen Jones at Kristen.Jones1@wyo.gov.

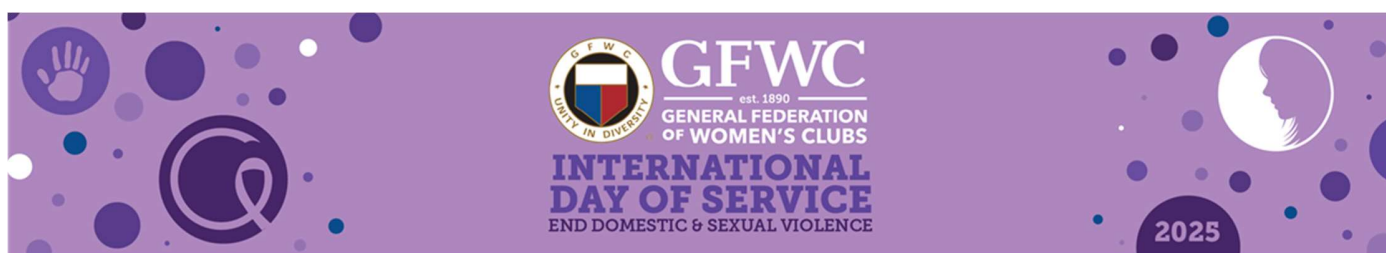
TOMBSTONE CLEANING



TOMBSTONE CLEANING

The GFWC Mississippi Poplarville Woman's Club (MS) organized the Veteran's Tombstone Cleaning project and placed flags on the tombstones during Veterans Day. Researching the proper way to clean a tombstone and educating others was critical. Recommendations were shared from Arlington Cemetery. The event was advertised in their community. Working with the Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, high school students, and members, over 250 tombstones were cleaned, and flags were placed.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What is GFWC International Day of Service?

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The **GFWC International Day of Service** (GFWC IDS) is a day in which all GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs will participate by organizing projects in their communities as part of GFWC IDS.

How can you help us end sexual and domestic violence in the United States?

To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local Department of Family Services – Domestic and Sexual Violence Services office, along with shelters that specialize in serving women and children, and any community based facility that focuses on this issue area to hear their most immediate needs.

Who should you invite to participate?

Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend(s) to join GFWC! The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

GFWC IDS Information & Updates:

Every week until September 27, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss domestic and sexual violence. Be sure to check out the weekly electronic newsletter, *GFWC News & Notes*; Facebook and Instagram; and visit the GFWC Member Portal for new resources.

How to register?

Register for the GFWC IDS via the GFWC Member Portal. Members must create a profile in the GFWC Member Portal first, (new profiles are approved within 2-3 days), and then go to the EVENTS page to register their group.

Create A New Profile in the GFWC Member Portal

All users will need to complete a one-time registration using their existing email on the new portal. Please read this [SUPPORT GUIDE](#) for assistance in creating your profile, downloading files from the Digital Library, and updating your profile information.

**If you do not see your club listed under your state federation during registration, please email gfwc@gfwc.org with your official club name and state federation so we can add it.*