

**Newsblast
August 2022**

**GFWC members
Since 1904**



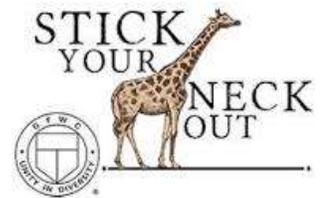
**Preserve our Past – Protect our Future
President Trish Peoples**

As the 2020-2022 administration closes, we owe Nancy Kaufman so much for her steady guidance during the pandemic and beyond. We celebrate her and all her accomplishments. She earned the Charlotte Emerson Brown Award for Exemplary Service and Excellence in State Leadership. Congratulations, Nancy! Speaking of awards, GFWC Wyoming again demonstrated our importance to the federation by our visibility at the GFWC International Convention. Here is the list:



Western States Region Jennie Award Winner Pam Crochet, pictured here with GFWC International President Marian St. Clair, Western States Region President Kate LeMere and GFWC Director of Junior Clubs Kristina Higbee.

Junior's Special Program Advocates for Children
Stick Your Neck Out Awards
GFWC Meadowlarks of Cheyenne
GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne



Civic Engagement & Outreach Category 5
Leadership Category 5
Website Contest Category 5
Community Impact Program Award Category 5: Women's Civic League of Cheyenne
WCLC earned \$2,500 for this award—great job
Membership Award of \$50 : Juniorette Participation: GFWC Leading Ladies



Photography “Living the Volunteer Spirit” Category
3rd Place – Phyllis Salzburg

Mary Ann Kamla and Benita Thompson tie blankets at a GFWC XJWC meeting in Phyllis’s award-winning photo.

2022-2024 Theme **Preserve our Past – Protect our Future**

I have two “Theme” challenges for Wyoming Clubwomen.

Challenge #1

The first challenge is to Preserve our Past. In 2004, for the 100th Anniversary of GFWC Wyoming, President Patty Benskin had the clubs write their histories, and she sent those precious documents to the Women’s Resource & History Center (WHRC) at GFWC International Headquarters. As we approach the 120th Anniversary in 2024, I am again requesting our clubs write their histories for the past 20 years (2004-2024). Wyoming clubs do so much good in our communities and our world. Let’s not let that information disappear. The WHRC Chairman, Pam Crochet, will work with the clubs to make that happen. The information will be sent both to WHRC and be placed on our award-winning GFWC Wyoming website.

Challenge #2

The second challenge is to Protect our Future. *Discovery* tells us that planting new trees is one of the most effective ways to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide and limit climate change. I challenge each club to plant at least one tree for every 10 members. Of course, going above and beyond would be fine by me. With membership as it stands today, each club would need to plant the following:

Casper Active Service Club, 21st Century Club, Meadowlarks,
and Yoder–1 tree; Leading Ladies-2 trees; XJWC-4 trees;
Rock Springs-5 trees; Laramie Woman’s Club-6 more trees;
Women’s Civic League-18 trees

Laramie started us off with a tree planted in front of the Wyoming Women’s History House. This photo shows “Rooted in Laramie” planting the tree in June.



There are several ways to do get those trees planted. As mentioned in the last *Newsblast*, Nick Neylon is the Deputy State Parks Director and can guide you through selecting the best trees for planting in each area of the state and how to donate money to our State Parks for planting trees. Mr. Neylon can be reached at 307-431-4866, 318-450-8687, nick.neylon@wyo.gov. Your city may have a nonprofit, such as “Rooted in Cheyenne” that you can donate to. These two are the most effective ways to plant trees in Wyoming.

There are also places like *TeamPlanting.com*, where you buy a bracelet, and they plant a tree. Other hardworking and fascinating nonprofits throughout the world include *One Tree Planted*, *Trees for the Future*, *International Tree Foundation*, *Woodland Trust*, *Trees for Life*, *Trees for Cities*, *Tree Aid*, and *Trees, Water & People*. I recommend checking them out. These are great places to donate but are not specific to Wyoming.

The Environment Chairman, Phyllis Salzburg, will follow your tree progress. As you plant a tree, please forward the information to her.

Ongoing Support

We will also do some familiar drives that GFWC Wyoming clubwomen have generously supported. These aren't part of the challenges, but I welcome any club's participation.

Nike Grind gathers athletic shoes. They give the lightly used pairs to those in need, then grinds up the others for playground material.

Free the Girls takes new and lightly used bras and gives them to the survivors of human trafficking so they can start their own small business.

Smartwool recycles clean socks into dog beds.

March of Dimes – we will continue to strive for that Mile of Dimes.

Any time we get together during the next 2 years, bring your socks, shoes, bras and dimes. As always, only do what you are comfortable doing!

Moving Forward

Strategic Planning – Mary Lee Dixon is working with a committee to develop a Strategic Plan. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this concept, Strategic Planning is the process of setting goals and creating a blueprint for an organization's future. Having a plan with goals and measures of success will help GFWC Wyoming flourish and be ready for future challenges.

New Clubs – GFWC Wyoming has new club possibilities in Shoshoni and Green River. We are also considering a club at UW. Do you have daughters, granddaughters, nieces, or other relatives at UW who would be interested? Get their names and contact information to Karen Bard and Karen Kent.

Board Meeting/Fall Workshop

The board meeting will be October 7th in the Sunflower Room of the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne from 4:00 – 6:00. The Fall Workshop will be October 8th, also in the Sunflower Room from 10:00 – 3:00. I've invited a GFWC International representative to these events, so let's have a big turn out! I'll be reaching out for instructors soon.

Leadership Education and Development Seminar/ International Conference

President-elect/Dean of Chairmen Karen Bard

My LEADS experience started with an evening event with the International President in her suite. We were able to meet officers, LEADS leadership, and the other LEADS candidates. It was a lovely evening and a great way to start meeting people so that the following day we had already broken the ice.

Friday was a full on day with many modules on how local, state and national work together as well as much more on topics ranging from how to run effective meetings, to conflict management and ideas on how to get your members involved. The day was literally like drinking from a faucet.

I must commend all the presenters, especially our very own Mary Lee Dixon, as they all did a wonderful job. I loved their super hero capes and we learned to do a super hero pose. What was interesting was that our first attempt in the morning was very tentative. Not sure what we were doing. But by the end of the day we were all very proudly doing our hero poses and having great fun with it all. I think everyone came out of the day feeling more confident in their roles and many ideas on how to move forward.



I have taken notes and with a small tweak here or there am formulating ideas for my club and the state. Last year Starla Sexton, our LEADS candidate, came back and started a new club, Leading Ladies, open to LEADS graduates and past presidents. I didn't get my inspiration for a couple of days and it came from the current International Parliamentarian when she gave her speech on why we should vote for her for treasurer. One of her goals was to establish more collegiate clubs across the nation. I wish she had won, but I spoke with her before the results and let her know whether she was successful or not that she had made a positive impact on me. From her I have challenged myself to try and get one started on the University of Wyoming campus. I hope to get a this club started and believe the Laramie Woman's Club can provide support in this endeavor. If successful and they agree, I believe one of their objectives could be to assist in making women feel that they can step forward and be heard in a positive manner in the area of sexual harassment and assault on campus. This is one of the resolutions that were brought forward and updated at the conference. I know the university has a process in place but my gut tells me there is always room for improvement and work to be done in making women feel comfortable in speaking up.

With that in mind, I would like to ask all of our members to let me know if you have a female relative attending the University of Wyoming. Or perhaps you know of a young woman attending. I plan on reaching out to our scholarship winners first and see what head way can be made. Your assistance and introduction to these young women would be very helpful.

This year all of the resolutions were up for review and approval. This allowed me to get a very good idea of the principles and values held by the GFWC. Some were contested and that gave all of us an insight to parliamentarian procedure. The conference was an amazing sequence of events; meeting amazing women and hearing about amazing projects.

I came back sick, not COVID, which turned worse so I was down for close to 3 weeks. My husband is threatening that I cannot hang out with any GFWC women; that just won't work! But with all that I had a great time, learned a lot about GFWC, learned more about my fellow officers who were in attendance and met new people. I call that a success!

More pics from convention!



Vice President/Membership Chairman

Karen Kent

With respect to the Newsblast, please see this as opportunity to get important information out to the clubs. I would like to keep each chairman's monthly entry to 250 words. Pick something out of the Club Manual to share, pass on something that your GFWC International contact sends you or find something in Wyoming that fits with your position. If there is additional information that would be helpful, please provide a link or ask our wonderful Wyoming clubwomen to contact you. Photos of volunteers in action are always welcome! Also, I will have a calendar that you can add to without worrying about a word count. Finally, if you just don't have anything pertinent for any given month, that's OK.

Regarding membership, it is my goal for this administration to federate 3 new Wyoming clubs. We had a couple of dynamic ladies from Shoshoni join us at our state convention that are very interested in forming their own club in Fremont County. I, like Karen Bard, see a tremendous opportunity at the University in Laramie. I would like to work closely with all of your club membership chairmen to strengthen Wyoming's presence in GFWC. To reiterate Trish and Karen's request, please provide us with contact information of potential club women anywhere in the state. Wyoming is wide open and we are not limited as to where we grow a club or form a new one.

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GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfvcwyoming.org

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