



**Newsblast
December 2022**



**GFWC members
Since 1904**

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

I'm thankful to be part of the great women of GFWC. November showed me how hard you work. I watched the Yoder Woman's Club put on another fantastic Pheasant Hunters' Luncheon and XJWC come together for its annual Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser. I was also fortunate to see the Laramie Woman's Club host the only Wyoming member of the 3rd US Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard" that watches over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Well done, all of you!



Good luck to the Woman's Club of Rock Springs and Women's Civic League of Cheyenne as they dive into their major annual fundraisers. And to all the clubs and clubwomen across the state who are buying gifts for underprivileged kids, feeding the hungry, and bringing joy to others this winter, thanks so much!

On November 16, I read a March of Dimes report stating that premature births in the United States are at an all-time high. Please remember that GFWC Wyoming has been working towards donating a Mile of Dimes to this cause. Gather up those stray dimes over the next few months and bring them to our April Conference in Torrington.



Karen Bard - President Elect

I hope everyone had a wonderful (and safe) Thanksgiving. We were able to spend the time with my sister in her new home. It is the first time that we have been able to spend Thanksgiving together and it made it very special. It was quite the feast. In addition, I wish to take this time to wish everyone the best of Holiday Seasons, no matter what holiday you are celebrating. I am looking forward to a very big Christmas Event. If everyone comes, it will be the largest Christmas dinner I have ever hosted, 13. My middle son is coming over from Australia with his finance. She has never been to the

states, and she is coming to be introduced to the as much of the extended family as possible. They will be here for close to a month, and we are very much looking forward to their visit. It will be quite the shock for her coming from summer to winter and I believe she has never experience snow let along subfreezing weather.



To follow up with lessons from birds, I want to touch on the subject of '*showing your vulnerability*'. Every time a bird takes flight it exposes the most vulnerable portion of its body, its underbelly. For a fraction of a moment when it decides to take flight and soar, it must expose itself and continues to do so during that amazing flight. I had the most wonderful experience a little over a year ago watching a mother osprey entice her fledglings to take flight. She had a fish in her claw and wouldn't hand it over. As she came to the nest and left time and again, her two fledglings would test their wings hovering over the nest. Finally, one of them took flight. It was amazing to watch. But she guided them, and dad kept watch perched on a post nearby.

In this context, I think of our new members as the fledglings trying to find their way in our clubs. They need to learn how the club operates, what projects our clubs work on to meet community needs etc. They also need to grow their confidence to step and fill leadership roles in our clubs. They could find their way on their own, but wouldn't it be so much better to have some guidance, someone to help them find their way. I believe a number of our clubs have mentoring programs or buddy programs for their new members. These are fantastic programs that should help us with member retention. It is also so nice to see new members develop and bring their ideas and personal touches to the club and the projects they participate in. What I really like to see is for them to take on a mentoring role with new members. So I encourage all of us, to reach out, bring in new members, mentor them and help then find their place. Encourage them and not allow their personal vulnerabilities to hold them back. Tell them about how you felt when you first joined and how you found your place in the club. Offer to mentor them in a leadership role. Let them know they aren't alone.

P.S. As a foot note for preparation for the new year; start thinking about those project reports that I will be looking for in the new year. Remember, that these reports are important for your club, for the state and for national. It is these reports that not only chronicle our achievements but form the basis for us to maintain our not-for-profit status.

Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman

Thank you to everyone for submitting articles for this newsblast. It has been enjoyable seeing your pictures and reading about your activities. I hope all of our clubs can utilize the valuable information that our chairmen have provided.

It is my absolute honor and pleasure to tell you all that as of Dec 4, 2022 Wyoming will have one more club to add to our roster. On Dec 4, President, Trish Peoples will present the charter and install the officers of the GFWC Fremont County Ladies.

Congratulations to Women's Club of Rock Springs for adding 2 new members to their club for the Fall quarter.

Dec-Feb, Membership is focused on mentoring. As Karen Bard has poignantly illustrated above, once a club has a new member doesn't mean that club's work is over. If the member is going to stay, she needs to feel welcomed and useful. Mentoring is extremely important in helping a "newbie" navigate all of the projects, committees and social activities that our clubs are involved with. It is everyone's responsibility to make membership meaningful.

Carolyn Turbiville – Education and Libraries

Fall has arrived and many activities are going on in schools and libraries. I recently accompanied 2nd graders I volunteer in their classroom), on a field trip to a pumpkin patch.



X-JWC donated \$150 to the Education and Library committee to purchase additional school supplies in addition to what supplies members had donated. Joanne Bassett, chairman, had a fun day buying the much-needed supplies.



What has your club been doing? Please send pictures and write ups so ideas can be shared.

Volunteering In Your Local Library -State, City, School

Establish a working relationship with local libraries to plan beneficial services, programs and activities. Libraries bring people together. Engage your members to participate with their ideas, talent and time, bring cohesion to the Education and Libraries by helping people learn and grow by offering training classes for all ages, computer skills, lunch and learn workshops, GED, ESE, literacy, current topics for seniors and more.

Linda Stowers – Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

CHILD ABUSE WHAT DO OUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT "AGING OUT" OF FOSTER CARE?

When a foster child becomes 18 and leaves the foster care safety umbrella, what will they need? Many will still be in high school, these teens find themselves in need of jobs, a place to live, and a means of transportation to survive.

We all dream of a foster family willing to continue to provide a safety net and guidance. But many are not so fortunate. Each year approximately 24,000 American teenagers in foster care turn 18 years old. National studies have shown that within two to four years of leaving foster care at age 18: 40% were homeless 46% had not finished high school 40% were receiving public assistance or were incarcerated 40% experienced drug or alcohol abuse 51% were unemployed 84% became parents *Statistics from Forever Family.

So how can our GFWC Club Members help these youth? Meet with your local foster care agency and then brainstorm how to fill the urgent needs. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 gave states more funding and greater flexibility to provide support to youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. Some youth aging out may choose to continue care and supervision of the child welfare system. These youth experienced better outcomes than those who chose or were forced to leave care.

So, what can my local club do to help? The best thing one can do for a teen in foster care is to become their mentor. Get involved by connecting with them on a regular basis and helping with anything they need. Often they just need help in filling out forms, applications and deciphering what is wanted.

Clubs can also donate money so that they have the resources they need to fulfill their academic and career potential.

Clubs can offer a scholarship to a child in foster care.

Clubs can become involved with a homeless program. Clubs can provide full size toiletries, towels, and linens.

Leslie Jo Gatti - Arts & Culture

During December, there are many craft shows. Check Facebook or your local paper for dates and times. There are presentations of The Nutcracker Ballet in many locations and favorite Christmas movies, such as The Polar Express. But the Season **REALLY** begins with Holiday House in Rock Springs and Christmas House in Cheyenne on December 2 & 3. Members have been working for months on these fundraising projects. In Rock Springs, it is the Club's first house in 3 years because of Covid restrictions.

Remember to take time out to recharge yourself, too. Merry Christmas



Deb McCann - ESO

ESO Member Contest

Will Wyoming be the state that increases ESO membership the most?

- The state with the largest percentage increase each year will be recognized at the 2023 and 2024 GFWC Annual Convention ESO Breakfasts.
- Year 1 ends May 1, 2023.
- Year 2 ends May 1 2024.
- The total number of ESO members in the State Federation as of July 1, 2022 must be determined as a starting point.
- The ESO Chair will reach out to every club for numbers.

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”

Virginia grew up. Yes. THAT Virginia - who became a teacher - encouraging students through the Great Depression, World War II, and the Polio epidemic. “The Santa Clause Girl,” by Patricia P. Goodin is a novel drawn from true events and imagines Virginia’s far-reaching influence and her exceptional gift of inspiration. Set in New York City, December 1952, the story uncovers how a remarkable woman sparks a band of humble do-gooders to overcome the odds stacked against them – and reach for an extraordinary goal.

I hope some of you read it. It sounds like a great book for Christmastime! (It’s available on Kindle for \$6.99)

GFWC ESO Book Club on Facebook

This group of more than 1,400 members belong to this online book club and features Education and Libraries project ideas and ESO. It is a private group and you must ask to join. Check it out!

Phyllis Salzburg – Environment Community Service Program

USDA FOREST SERVICE CHRISTMAS GIFT ARRIVES ON CAPITOL HILL

(From the USDA Forest Service website)

The 78-foot red spruce tree – affectionately named “Ruby” – arrived on Capitol Hill to serve as 2022 Capitol Christmas Tree where it will stand on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, serving as a reminder of the public land that has been set aside for all to use and enjoy. Every year since 1970 the USDA Forest Service has provided a Christmas tree, known as “The People’s Tree,” to stand on the West Front Lawn of Capitol Hill. This year, the massive spruce was provided as a gift from the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina.

“Ruby” had heavy competition and passed several important tests along the way. A team of biologists, silviculturists, forestry technicians, and arborists spent months combing the mountainsides of the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests looking for just the right tree. The tree had to be at least 65 feet tall; had to be well hydrated to remain healthy through the holiday season and needed to grow close to a road so arborists could harvest the tree with minimum disturbance to other trees and wildlife.

Ruby was chosen over 7 other red spruce trees but had to pass a final thorough inspection. One of the main criteria of the inspection? Make sure Ruby the Red Spruce wasn't home to any critters not expecting to make a trip to the Capitol this holiday season. In July, a group of scientists and climbers gathered, ready to inspect the top candidate trees. Ruby passed the test. The climbers scrambled over every inch of the 78-foot spruce and found no signs of squirrels, spiders or lichens. This year's tree is contributing to a movement among land managers in the southern Appalachian region to redouble efforts to restore red spruce habitat. The team that helped select Ruby collected Ruby's cones, which contain seeds that will be eventually be grown into seedlings and may be among the next generation of red spruce trees.

Forest service employees across the state connected with local communities to create and gather ornaments for the tree, as well as small Christmas trees to be displayed throughout Washington, D.C. and in the homes of military service members' families. Over 12,000 ornaments were decorated and donated by schools, communities, and civic organizations.



On November 29, a specially selected fourth-grader will flip the switch at the lighting ceremony. The 9-year old is a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. A very special honor for him and his family.



Barb Robertson – Photography and Writing Contest

I can't wait for my inbox and mailbox to be jam-packed with stories and poetry! The Annual GFWC writing Contests seek to provide an avenue for our members to express themselves through writing!

To allow our judges sufficient time to read and critique all your submissions, I would like to have all entries to me by Jan. 31, 2023

The categories include:

- GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest
- GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest

Next, the GFWC Photography Contest encourages our clubs to express their artistic side and recognize and support members' achievements in photography. There are three categories:

- The World in Pictures
 - Living Things
 - Scenes
 - Still Life
- GFWC Volunteers in Action
- A Year in Pictures

To allow our judges sufficient time to read and critique all your submissions, I would like to have all entries to me by Jan. 31, 2023

If you would like to submit your original photographs or writing, you may send it to:

Barb Robertson

gfwcmeadowlarks@gmail.com

1536 Scenic Ridge Drive

Cheyenne, WY 82009

Barb Robertson – Meadowlarks, President



The Larks met for the final time in 2022 to prepare for our new Board! Congratulations to our new board who will lead us for the next 2 years! The Larks are working on a community project for the holidays in December and we are all excited to support, volunteer, and attend the Annual Christmas House! Finally, our very own State President Trish Peoples hosted several of our GFWC Members at the Groundbreaking for



the Children's Museum. Karen Kent made Dirt Cups to celebrate this trailblazing event!

Karen Bard – Laramie Women’s Club, President



Our meeting in November went especially well. We had several veterans present to be honored including our oldest veteran in Albany County at 103. He is still quite young, standing and walking with pride and has a very sharp wit. Our speakers were very moving. Chief Marty Martinez talked about his transition from being in the service to working at the university and what it took to find his way. Sergeant Vincent discussed his personal path to becoming an honor guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also learned that he is the only man to ever guard the tomb for a 24-hour period. He did it twice, the first time during hurricane Sandy and the second time during the 2017 winter storm. I can't imagine what it would take both mentally and physically do guard for 24 hours let alone in those conditions.

We raised money for our club through our silent auction. We also donated money to the Veteran's Services at the University thanks to two anonymous donations and finally gave a donation to the Olivia Caldwell Foundation as a thanks to Sergeant Vincent for coming to our meeting all the way from Casper. Sergeant Vincent also brought a flag that had been flown over the tomb last Veteran's Day on the 100th anniversary of the internment. This raised an additional \$550 for the Olivia Caldwell Foundation.

Trish, our illustrious State President, was at our event and leave it to Annie Nelson to rope her into assisting us as a cashier at the end of the event for the silent auction sales. Many thanks to her for her assistance.

The Laramie Plains Museum is having their Open House on the second weekend of December. Our club will be having their usual Christmas Bazaar with sales going towards the museum's planned renovation of the Carriage House. If anyone can make it the dates are December 10th 3-6 pm and December 11th 1-4 pm

Lucy Russell - X-JWC President



Our club just finished up our major fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse. We want to thank the other clubs in Cheyenne who supported us in this fundraiser. We made a nice sum which will be donated to K9's for Mobility. At the December meeting we will be entertained by Bob and Debbie Mathews and some of their students, they visited us last year and we enjoyed them a lot. One of our committees are collecting, coats, scarves, and hats for the homeless and the needy in Cheyenne. I also asked for book from our members to donate to Meals on Wheels. I am hoping to gather 400 books for this project. I am thankful to be a member of this club. The women care for each other and provide a lot of service in our community. I hope everyone has a wonder Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Denise Lathrop – Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne, President

Merry Christmas from WCLC! We have had a relatively busy month.

The Art Committee led by Marcy Helzer had a lovely day for an art walk in downtown Cheyenne viewing all the bronze statues on corners of Capitol Ave. The Military committee met with the Recreational Therapist on the Air Force Base who provided them with a list of items to include in the Christmas Stockings for recovering Airmen. Our Senior committee will be helping senior residents of Prim Rose wrap their Christmas presents. The committee will provide the materials. Finally, our club will be collecting gift cards for our Special Needs committee to give to those adults and children with special needs.

As I write this every member is finishing up projects for Christmas House, as we open this Friday and Saturday.

We wish you all safe travels for the Christmas Holidays!

Marcia Volner – Woman’s Club of Rock Springs



It is with mixed feelings that I report for the Woman's Club of Rock Springs as we will soon be reporting under this name for the last time for our 100-year-old club. We will change to the Women's Club of Sweetwater County on January 1 of 2023. The club wanted to recognize their members from around the county and let people know that anyone can be a part of our organization. It was not an easy decision for some due to the history of the club and their many years of service

to the Woman's Club of Rock Springs. We honor the past and hope to move smoothly into a future of continuing the wonderful works of this club as we head into 101 years.

We are getting ready for Holiday House, our first in an actual house in 3 years due to COVID We are excited about the beautiful home and special events the hostess is providing. We will have refreshments and a choir singing Christmas Carols. We have 23 raffle items along with crafts and baked goods.

We gathered items for Christmas Stores for Headstart and 4H. Our economy has been greatly affected by events in the country and we felt it was a good time to help others have a good Christmas.

Pictured, October Meeting with speaker Deb Morake founder of McKensie home for single pregnant mothers, a new venture in Green River.

Members of the Yoder Women's Club at their annual Pheasant Hunters' Dinner



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