

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



December 6th is GFWC's Holiday Open house. The house pictured is Wyoming's addition to the holiday village that will be on display. Our horse and rider pin is affixed to the back, so no one should be confused about what state this belongs to.

Other important upcoming GFWC dates:

November 30: Clubs, if you still need to pay state dues, donate to our scholarship fund, endowment fund or art fund, please do so! Membership lists are due as well.

December 31: End of reporting period. Get those last-minute projects finished. Take those photos for the photography

contest or write that short story!

January 19, 10:00 – GFWC Wyoming Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)

January 20, 10:00 – GFWC Wyoming Board Meeting (Zoom)

I was happy to join my GFWC sisters in honoring our veterans on November 11 at American Legion Post, representing all three Cheyenne clubs: GFWC Women's Civic League, GFWC XJWC and GFWC Meadowlarks. From left to right: Claudia Wilen, Trish Peoples, Sue Tardif and Katherine Van Dell.



Are you holding a GFWC event in December? If yes, make sure you are covered by our GFWC Wyoming insurance. In most cases, our insurance will cover your event for no additional cost to your club. Contact Katherine Van Dell to get a certificate. Get that peace of mind that comes with knowing you are covered should there be a mishap. And that goes for any event, not just those occurring in December.

Karen Bard – President elect

I hope all of you had a memorable and safe Thanksgiving. It is always wonderful to add to our memories of family and friends. I spent the week with my parents in Missouri. Luckily, the weather was nice, and we had safe travels to and from. I was also invited to an amazing Friends Giving gathering where I met very different and yet very interesting people. Our hostess was impeccable, and the food was amazing. So, friends and family both added to my box of memories.

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is right around the corner. With that said I am going to remind everyone that end of the year project reports will be due early in the new year. For those of you that chaired a project, make sure you help write up that report. Don't leave everything for your President to take care of. Have a project write up party. For us, the first half of the year is with one set of officers and the second half with another. So past and present officers will be needing to come together to get all those write-ups completed.

In November I was doing a lot of research to prepare for our 125th Club Anniversary and I came across the following which I think is very relevant. The last two refrains of this I found to be very poignant. I have loved going through our archives and being humbled by all the hard and good works that our predecessors completed.

Our First Club Members

Great Solicitors and borrowers were they;

For three long years Mrs Kidd

Loaned a piano without pay.

They were saving money all the time.

And finally decided a paper to print;

They earned \$300 to reach their goal.

Nor did not have to neglect or stint

On other projects they thought worthwhile.

We borrowed again for years ten.

A silver service from a Friend;

And with toil only fit for men,

Carried it up the stairs and down again.

Now after fifty years with joy and pride,

We have these few pieces of our own.

And placed fondly by their side,
Two exquisite gifts from some good friends.

In a club, as in all walks of life,
Some do little, some do much.
Some with love, and some with strife;
We're proud of what our records show.

So in some distant future day
When Club members shall review the past,
We hope that they will be constrained to say
Of our work, "Well done".

So, write your reports with pride in your work. Think of the record you are leaving for your club 50 years from now, when someone looks back and wants to see what you did during your time. For as I have read the records they left, I am humbled and challenged to raise my game so that I can strive to live up to their legacy.

Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman

“Life is for participating, not spectating.”

It is difficult to believe another year is rapidly coming to a close. GFWC Wyoming women have done so many impactful things for their respective communities as well as surrounding areas these past 11 months. All our activities provide us with prime opportunities to showcase our clubs. Wear your GFWC apparel and bling. People will ask you what you are about. When others know who we are and what we do, they often want to become a part. When you talk to people, be enthusiastic about what you tell them. That enthusiasm is infectious. Enjoy this special time of the year and enjoy the company around you.

Lucy Russell - Spiritual Advisor

We are coming to the end of 2023; where has the time gone? I feel like we just started 2023 and now we are looking toward 2024. I love this time of year. We usually get some beautiful snow; people seem to be more giving and happier. I love Christmas, the baking, the gathering of families and the worship of Jesus Christ. I know that there are many religions and so I thought I would share a little bit about Hanukkah. This is a celebration that the Jewish people have at this time of the year. Hannukah starts this year on December 7th and ends on December 15th. It is celebrated by lighting candles for each day and giving of gifts each day of the celebration. I hope that everyone will celebrate in their own way during this month, but I hope all will be kind and loving and

that you will carry it onto the next year. The world would be so much better if we would follow our collect and be kind and serve others. Find a way to provide a little service this month, it always makes me feel better when I provide service to others. I wish all a happy Holiday and a happy new year.

Flo Beville – Scholarship Chairman

The Bylaws and Scholarship committees continue to meet to rewrite, refine, and define policies and procedures and the bylaws. We have a great group and have made definite progress. I have received some club donations for the scholarships. If your club wishes to donate, send to Flo Beville, 3689 Campstool Rd., Cheyenne WY 82007. Thank you.

Bev Campbell – Advocates for Children

X-JWC members agreed to place a jar on the tables for monthly meetings. The intent is to remind members to donate money to help pay for lunches. The money will be used for children who don't have money to pay for their lunch. There are many children who attend school without money or sack lunch. I hope our GFWC Wyoming members investigate what your club can do to help children in your community.

Phyllis Salzburg – Environment Community Service Program Chairman

OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE!

We're all about trees, just ask State President Trish Peoples. Artificial or real, that's the question this time of year. According to experts, artificial trees are not eco-friendly. They're made of plastic and metal which are hard to separate if anyone should try to recycle them. These same experts also say if you're already using one keep on using it rather than throwing it away where it will sit in a landfill just about forever.

Now for live trees.... Both BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and the US Forest Service, an agency of the US Dept. of Agriculture, offer permits to cut Christmas trees on their respective land areas for minimum fees. BLM permits range from \$7.50 to \$10 per tree with a maximum of 5 trees for purchase by individuals for their personal use. Permits for Forest Service land are \$8.00 - \$10. Check out the websites below for all the rules for cutting trees and for permits on BLM and Forest Service land. They are not interchangeable – permits are needed for whichever area you'll be looking for a tree and of course are not to be used on private, city, county land. Tree experts from these agencies say Christmas tree cutting improves the health of our forests by thinning densely populated stands of trees which can help other trees grow larger and open areas that provide food for wildlife. <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/forest-product-permits/wyoming-christmas-trees>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/passes-permits/forestproducts/?cid=stelprdb5345974>

The Forest Service has a very special program for 4th graders called Every Kid Outdoors. Those who signed up for the program can get a FREE permit for a Christmas tree. That student can take his/her brothers and sisters and up to 3 adults along to get a tree. Visit the following website for all the information on this program and permit information. <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm>

Happy Holidays and may your Christmas tree shine brightly!

Nancy Kaufman - Nominations Committee Chairman

The GFWC Wyoming Nominations Committee is charged with finding a slate of Officers for the 2024-2026 administration of which Karen Bard will be GFWC Wyoming State President. The deadline for nominations was Nov 1, 2023. This committee currently has at least one nomination for the offices of President-Elect, Vice President, and Secretary. To all clubs and Club Presidents, please contemplate your club membership and consider nominating a qualified woman for the office of State Treasurer. FYI, it is not as daunting as being the Treasurer of a club because reports are not monthly.

Candidates for State Treasurer must be nominated in writing by their clubs as soon as possible now that the November deadline has passed. The committee will begin actively searching for a candidate and we would appreciate your support. Electronic submissions are preferred – npkauf@comcast.net

Marianne Gatti - Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman

GFWC's newest Civic Engagement and Outreach initiative asks us to build a museum! How exciting! We have moved forward in working with a new resource, the National Coast Guard Museum Association. I hope you have been following the updates on GFWC Facebook, News and Notes, and the latest issue of the GFWC Clubwoman Magazine. Last month, GFWC President Strahanoski, GFWC 2nd Vice President Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC Florida Clubwoman Jennifer Hawkins, and I [Sharon Oliphant, GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach] had an informative Zoom meeting that outlined the partnership that is being formed. GFWC clubs and members will have the opportunity to be on the Wall of Heroes and the steppingstones of this museum. Start doing your planning and budgeting for the 2024 year. You will want to be a part of this landmark museum. We will have materials, handouts, and Zoom presentations coming after the first of the year. The US Coast Guard Museum team is so excited to have the General Federation of Women's Clubs as an affiliate partner in this tremendous step toward fulfilling a way to honor our brave men and women of the US Coast Guard.

Please see attached pages for interesting facts about GFWC and the US Coast Guard.

Please check out these links and go to the GFWC Website for updated information on the Civic Engagement and Outreach Program outlines. My Digital Library, Resources, "C," Club Manual, Special Programs, CSPs, Civic Engagement and Outreach.

- GFWC-specific giving link: www.coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc
- Link to the paver website: <https://cgmuseumpavers.com/#/about>
- Checks - (please reference GFWC) can be sent to:

National Coast Guard Museum Association
 78 Howard Street, Suite A
 New London, CT 06320

(A paver form is being developed, but if you are ready to donate, please put GFWC on your memo line for credit in this fundraising event.) The federal government has committed \$30 million, and the State of Connecticut has committed \$20 million to construct a pedestrian bridge necessary to provide pedestrian access to the museum over the main railroad track connecting New York and Boston. Lockheed Martin pledged \$1 million to the project. The museum is scheduled to see Phase II of steel coming out of the ground in early 2024, with a scheduled completion date of 2026. Your participation in Paver Purchase, Wall of Philanthropy, Exhibit Experiences, Gallery Displays, STEM Discovery Center, and the Atrium are all part of the recognition of the US Coast Guard. Currently, the Museum Foundation has raised \$160 million. Our long history of fulfilling needs in our community and our Nation provides us with a unique opportunity to help the National Coast Guard Museum Association accomplish this monumental undertaking. Let us honor the women who served in the past, those who serve now, and those who will serve in the future with values, honor, respect, and devotion to duty with our fundraising skills and push the



United States Coast Guard Museum across the finish line. National Coast Guard Museum (uscg.mil)



GFWC Clubwomen served directly starting in WWII as uniformed clerical workers at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. During WWII, the Coast Guard recruited women into their women's reserve known as SPARS. (Semper Paratus-Always Ready) On November 1, 1973, the enlistment of women was first authorized for four-year tours of active duty. The ratings to be held by these women were enlisted to yeoman, storekeeper, hospital corpsman, photojournalist, dental technician, and musician. On December 7, Y1/c Wanda May

Parr and Y2c Margaret A. Blackman became the first female enlistees. Alice T. Jefferson (photo right) became the first woman commissioned officer sworn into the Coast Guard. Please follow the National Coast Guard Museum Association page on Facebook. Also, uscgmuseum on Instagram. (National Coast Guard Museum)



Another great fact is that the United States Lighthouse Board in the mid-1800s was responsible for maintaining the lighthouses that pepper our nation's shores. It became the United States Lighthouse Service in 1910 and eventually merged with the US Coast Guard in 1939. The US Coast Guard, during an average day, will

conduct 109 search and rescue cases, save 10 lives, and assist 192 people in distress! And protect \$2,791,841 in property. Over 100,000 rescues per year. The success rate of 90% interdiction success. Stay tuned for more exciting information on the US Coast Guard Museum. Our new partnership with the brave men and women who continue to serve us with their multimission force around the globe.

Leslie Jo Gatti – Arts and Culture Chairman

As December approaches, cultural activities increase. Most schools have Christmas assemblies. Ballet performances of the Nutcracker are plentiful. If the weather is too bad to venture out, turn on your TV. Christmas specials featuring the lighting of various National Christmas Trees to “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas” are featured. Several channels show 24-hour Christmas movies!

WCLC is hosting their Christmas House the first weekend in December. The hours on Friday are 9 am till 7 pm. Saturday’s hours are 10 am to 3 pm. Admission is \$6.

Women’s Club of Sweetwater County is also hosting its annual Holiday House in Rock Springs the first weekend of December. Friday’s hours are 4 to 8 pm. Saturday’s hours are 10 am till 2 pm. Drawings for raffle prizes is at 1 pm Saturday. Admission is \$5.

On Saturday, December 2, St. Christopher’s Highway is sponsoring “Nativities, The Gift” at Bunning Freight Station in downtown Rock Springs. This is a collection of Nativity scenes donated by local residents. Admission is free though donations are accepted.

The Community Fine Arts Center in Rock Springs is featuring works by Indigenous artists. The show, “Grounded,” is featured until December 31. I know several members from Cheyenne saw the works earlier in the fall when the exhibit was in Cheyenne.

In this busy season, remember to take time to enjoy the decorations and lights. Remember the Reason for the Season. Merry Christmas!!

Starla Sexton – LEADS Chairman



Do you have a LEADS Candidate???

Do you know someone in your club who would be a great candidate for the GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS)? The program was designed to identify members who have potential and the

desire to assume leadership roles in their club and throughout the GFWC organization. Graduating from LEADS will help candidates gain capabilities and confidence to pursue higher office and the ability to serve within their club at a higher level. The LEADS program will be held the day before (June 27, 2024) the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention which will be in Chicago IL, June 28- July

2, 2024. It is a full day of activities including networking with other LEADS candidates attending internationally. It really is a neat experience, where one can learn more about GFWC and topics relevant to each club, as well as rubbing elbows with some amazing Women doing incredible things internationally! The deadline to submit a candidate is February 1, 2024. Applications and instructions can be found on the GFWC Wyoming website and need to be sent to starlasexton@gmail.com. If you have questions, I can be reached at 307-214-3340 or via email. I can't wait to see all the candidates sent in this year and hope to have a hard time deciding which one will be our Wyoming LEADS candidate.

Nancy Kaufman - GFWC Wyoming Endowment Custodian

It is not too late to make your Club's (or personal) donation to the Endowment Fund for 2023! The interest/gains earned from this fund go specifically to support the operating expenses of GFWC Wyoming and help us keep dues down. Please make checks out to GFWC Wyoming Endowment Fund and mail to Nancy Kaufman 1929 Linden Ridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524

Thank you to the Clubs and members who have sent donations and memorials!



Deb McCann_ ESO Chairman

XJWC Book Club - November Meeting

From left to right

Back: Mary Ann Kamla, Jo Anne Bassett, Bev Campbell

Front: Karen Kent, Nancy Krois

Attending but not pictured, Benita Thompson

Each book club member reads a book of her choice that will be shared at the next monthly book club meeting. A book exchange often ensues. Way to Go XJWC Book Club!



Photo from Bev Campbell

Things I Do in My Spare Time

Read Books

Buy Books

Research Books

Review Books

Smell Books

Rearrange Books

Barb Robertson – Writing and Photography Contest Chairman

GFWC Wyoming Writing and Photography Contest--As the weather begins to get cooler and we move into days where we are indoors and reflecting on the past year, it is a great time to go through your photos or take out a pen and express yourself creatively with written work. The Annual Writing and Photography Contest due date for GFWC Wyoming is March 1, 2024. For more details, you can visit the GFWC Digital Library and download the criteria and the waiver. Every Submission requires a waiver to be submitted. Please remit your submissions: Barb Robertson, 1536 Scenic Ridge Drive Cheyenne, WY 82009. If you are in Cheyenne, you are welcome to stop by the Cheyenne Frontier Days Office located at 1210 West 8 th Avenue (Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm).

Marcia Volner - Women’s Club of Sweetwater County President



Our guest speakers for our November meeting were two officers from the Green River Police Department and their therapy dog Buddy. The club has been making comfort bags for the police to carry in their cars and to be used in the forensic therapy room. The officers talked about how they are used and the best items to be put in the bags. We also collected coats, scarves, and gloves to be donated to those in need through a local church. We gained two new members at this meeting as well. We are looking forward to having a profitable and fun Holiday House on December 1 & 2.

One of our members passed away on veterans’ day which her sons say they believed she was hanging on so that she wouldn’t miss it. Sharon Burgman will be missed.

You can visit us on Instagram “women’sclubofsweetwatercounty”.



Claudia Wilen - WCLC President

At the time of this writing WCLC is knee deep in the merriment of their annual Christmas House project, with the doors opened to the public on Dec. 1-2. As usual, all the time put into the project throughout the year has resulted in one tired membership, who are now just wishing for a “silent night” and being able to put their feet up to relax... but not before celebrating all their efforts at our annual Christmas House brunch.

The speaker for our November membership meeting was Robin McIntyre from our local Alzheimer’s Association, outlining the signs of the four types of dementia and resources available for caretakers of loved ones with this disease.

Our service committees were also at work preparing for the holidays during November. The Military committee gathered donations for 57 stockings for our vets while Youth and Family services collected gifts for Toys for Tots. Senior Services committee is planning a gift-wrapping tea party at a local care facility. Several members from our

sister clubs gathered to attend a ceremony honoring our veterans on November 11th here in Cheyenne. WCLC wants to wish you all the very best of the holiday season!

Lucy Russell - XJWC President

XJWC had a great meeting in November. We heard from Brittany Tennant, Director of the Cheyenne Animal Shelter.

We continue to collect money for the Laramie County School District #1 lunch program. A couple of members met with a grade school here in Cheyenne and helped 22 girls tie blankets. The ladies tied 11 blankets to be given to Children of Laramie County.

We had our fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse and were able to make \$3,586.

Members brought scarves for a project one of our members is heading up which is giving scarves to the homeless in Cheyenne.

We will be collecting holiday decorations that members want to give away and these will be given to Veterans Rock for their fundraiser in December.

We will hold our last meeting of the year on December 5th. Our program will feature Bob Matthews and family. Bob is a very talented violinist here in Cheyenne and has been blessing us with his presence for quite a few years. He comes and plays Christmas music which helps us all to get into the spirit of Christmas.

Our club continues to be strong and to have many wonderful ladies in it. I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Linda Simpson - Laramie Woman's Club President

The Laramie Woman's Club held their annual Silent Auction in November. We are preparing for our 125th Anniversary Celebration at our December meeting. The members will be putting items regarding the club into a time capsule. The celebration includes a catered luncheon. December 9th and 10th we will hold our Christmas sale at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center.

Follow us on Facebook: GFWC of Wyoming

GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfwcwyoming.org

Editor: Karen Kent

wyokents@msn.com