

# KALEIDOSCOPE

FEBRUARY 2026



## *President's Message*

**KRISTIN RILEY**

. It's almost hard to believe that on February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil predicted a longer, colder winter—especially as we continue to enjoy these bright, spring-like days. Whether winter ever truly arrives or not, the

warmth within our organization has never been in question. It shines through every act of service, every hour volunteered, and every woman who gives so generously of herself.

This past month brought a meaningful transition within our leadership. The Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Joan Carey as Treasurer of the GFWC Women’s Civic League. We are deeply grateful for her willingness to serve over the past year and for the dedication she brought to the role. Sometimes life calls us in different directions, and we honor her decision to step down at this time. Teresa Kunkel will continue her steady work as Assistant Treasurer.

During the Nominating Committee meeting on February 4, 2026, and in accordance with our bylaws, the committee discussed filling the Treasurer position and presented Patty Benskin as their nominee to the Board. A special election will be held this Wednesday, and we look forward to moving ahead with unity and purpose.

Last week, we submitted our annual narrative reports summarizing the service projects completed during the 2025 calendar year. While we know our club accomplished far more than what was captured on paper, the numbers we submitted still tell a powerful story of compassion in action:

- 44 narrative reports submitted
- 6,080.5 volunteer hours
- \$3,113.98 in club funds spent
- \$53,842.00 donated by the club
- \$63,547.54 in in-kind donations
- \$61,978.74 raised through fundraising efforts

These numbers reflect only part of the picture—many members did not submit all their hours or itemized donations—but even so, the impact is extraordinary. Behind every hour, every dollar, and every donated item is a woman who chose to show up for her community. Our members are not only talented and kind; they are generous, resilient, and compassionate beyond measure.

Accurate reporting is essential to maintaining our 501(c)(3) status and ensuring our work continues to be recognized at the state and national levels. To help clarify how we categorize our contributions, here is a brief breakdown:

- Dollars Donated: Monetary gifts given directly to programs or projects.
- In-Kind Donations: The monetary value of goods donated to programs or projects.
- Dollars Spent: Costs incurred by members or the club to support Advancement Area goals.
- Dollars Raised: Funds earned through fundraising and development efforts.

As we move forward into a new year of service, let’s continue to lift one another up, celebrate our shared accomplishments, and keep building the legacy of generosity that defines the GFWC Women’s Civic League. Together, we make a difference—one project, one hour, and one act of kindness at a time.

Service Committee	# of Projects	# of Volunteer Hours	Money Spent	Money Donated	In- Kind Donations	Money Raised
Health & Wellness	9	547	\$541.50	\$8,015.00	\$494.50	\$0.00

Civic Engagement	9	588	\$529.01	\$7,127.00	\$9980.00	\$0.00
Education & Libraries	5	1004	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$1,164.37	\$0.00
Child Advocacy	3	318	\$0.00	\$5,2000.00	\$3,728.00	\$0.00
WHRC	1	90	\$44.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communication	2	441	\$505.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Domestic Violence	2	149	\$1,303.00	\$0.00	\$2,487.14	\$603.00
Environment	8	423.5	\$191.00	\$8,500.00	\$360.00	\$225.00
Membership	4	20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$730.00	\$0.00
Fundraiser	1	2500			\$53,603.53	\$61,150.74

Kristin

***CORRESPONDING  
SECRETARY***

***LYNN MCLAUGHLIN***

January Cards:

Joan Carey           Get Well  
Maria Harvey        Get Well

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Lunch this month is at The Office. We have 3 openings so if you still want to join us you can. Call Linda Stowers 307-220-1219

**ENVIRONMENT**

Thursday, April 2, Cheyenne Greenway Foundation will be the recipient of the Thankful Thursday event. The Environment Committee will consider donating an auction item for the event. Suggestions, something to donate? Let Phyllis know. Consider attending the fun event!

**MILITARY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

It's that time of the year already! Though a different organization is spearheading the Valentine's Cookie Drive for the Airmen in the Dorms this year, we have been invited to support this wonderful event which shows our appreciation of these young Airmen.

**Please join us in making Valentine's cookies and Valentine's cards for the Airmen in the Dorms at FE Warren AFB.**

The Wyoming Senior Enlisted Group is collecting Valentine's Cookies and Valentine's cards for the FE Warren Dorm Morale Valentine's Gathering.

To help the Wyoming Senior Enlisted Group track our donations, please sign up on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BAEAF2CA1FE3-61822522-valentines>

The **drop-off dates for the Valentine's Cookies and the Valentine's cards** are:

**Monday, February 9** and

**Tuesday, February 10.**

Drop-off location: **RE/MAX Capitol Properties** (4000 Central Ave.)

**\*\*These are the *only* dates for drop-off, and that is the *only* location. \*\***

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up thus far!

The Military Outreach Committee held it's February meeting this past week. We are looking forward to sharing with you all a wonderful opportunity we have to support the 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming National Guard as they prepare for over 50% of their Airmen to deploy. The Military & Family Readiness Center and the Wing are planning a special event to prepare children and spouses for the 6 month deployment. Once we have the details on how we can assist them at this support event being held on Saturday, June 6, we will let you know. For now, please mark your calendars to save the date. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to support the single Airmen throughout their deployment with cards and possibly care packages. More details to follow!

Thank you, Carolyn and Trish

## YEARBOOK CHANGES

Here are yearbook changes:

### **New members:**

Patricia Caldwell (she is re-joining)

6860 Squash Blossom Trail

970-371-7187

[Patriciaainmarco@gmail.com](mailto:Patriciaainmarco@gmail.com)

Cherie Cox

5024 Seminole Rd.

307-221-2214

[Chcox82009@gmail.com](mailto:Chcox82009@gmail.com)

## CGC

We have received 35 applications this year. The Committee will be reviewing them on February 9<sup>th</sup> and making decisions on which one will be going forward, need more information or forwarded to committee. The final meeting will be February 24 to make the final selection.

## EDUCATION

The Education Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 9:00-12:00 in the Sage Room on 2nd floor of the library to create an evaluation form to use in selecting this year's scholarship recipients. We

will be meeting again on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 1:00-4:00 in the same room at the library to select the scholarship recipients. If you would like to attend, but did not sign up for the Education Committee, please let me know so that I can include you in the emails. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2026, to be eligible for consideration. To date I have received one high school application and one non-traditional student application.

Brenda Hart

### **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

The Health & Wellness committee will be collecting nonprescription medications for Safehouse at the general membership meeting this Wednesday. Children's medications are especially needed. Anything for colds, flu, sore throat, upset stomach would be appreciated. They have specifically requested Children's Tylenol.

### **HOMELESS, HUNGRY AND NEEDY**

Thanks to all members who contributed warm clothing items this Fall for the Homeless population in our community. We had a wonderful collection as usual and the items are being taken to the Coalition for the Homeless. We also want to thank all members who have taken the time and money to contribute to those needing food donations to our families in our county..... we have collected so many items that have been donated to Needs and St. Joseph's Food Pantry. We will ask for donations for PBJ & Jelly this month to go to Needs and we will have a collection for "Pasta for the People" at our March WCLC General Membership meeting. Our committee will also be providing a meal for the needy and homeless in our community on March 21st at 11:00 am at the Allen Chapel on Snyder Ave. (More info. to follow) If anyone would like to contribute to this meal which will benefit the "Just Caring" organization and will give a meal to more than 40 needy individuals in our community.... Please respond to this email or give me a call at 307 631-5547.

We thank all members for your very generous donations each month..... we could not do what we do without your continued dedication to volunteerism in our community.

**Bring your Peanut Butter and Jelly to the meeting**

### **ESO**

Here are the books to read until May.

Feb 16 The Last Mrs. Parish by Liv Constantine

March 16 The Art Thief by Michael Finkell

April 20 The Authenticity Project by Clair Pooley

May 18 The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS**

Bunko will be on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Judy Lissman's. We will be going to Pizza Hut on Yellowstone prior to the rolling of the dice. Look for your invite. If you want to play, please contact Pam Hendricks pamhendrick55@yahoo.com or Linda Stowers.

The Bridge group will be the 3rd Thursday of each month for the remaining club year. Generally, we play at Cheyenne Country Club, but this is subject to change due to their availability. Participants may order Dutch Treat lunch off the menu at 12:00pm with cards being dealt at 1:00pm. Cost is lunch if you are eating + \$1.00. Contact Bev Dowling 630-0743, bev967@aol.com

### GFWC INFORMATION

- **GFWC Tidbit:** GFWC members have advocated for **women's suffrage, child labor laws, and education reform** long before these were mainstream causes.

#### **GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne**

Kristin Riley, President  
Marianne Gatti, President Elect  
Linda Stowers & Pam Hendricks, Vice-President  
Deanne Wilder- Vogel , Recording Secretary  
Lynn McLaughlin, Corresponding Secretary  
Vacant, Treasurer



#### **Kaleidoscope**

Published Monthly  
September thru May  
Linda Stowers, Editor  
Lpstowers54@gmail.com

