



**Newsblast  
January 2023**

**GFWC members  
Since 1904**



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

**Important Calendar Items**

- 1 January – The GFWC Women’s Club of Rock Springs becomes the GFWC Women’s Club of Sweetwater County
- 20 January at 10:00 – Executive Board meeting via Zoom
- 21 January at 10:00 – Full Board meeting via Zoom
- 31 January – Photography contest submissions due to Barb Robertson
- 31 January – Writing contest submissions due to Barb Robertson
- 1 February – The club presidents’ 2022 reports are due to Karen Bard and me
- 1 February – LEADS candidate submissions due to Karen Bard, Starla Sexton and me

Congratulations to the GFWC Fremont County Ladies! I was honored to present their charter and install officers. These are the Fremont four who could attend the initial meeting (with another on the phone).



As we welcome a new Wyoming club, we also say goodbye to a GFWC Wyoming icon: Ernie Shriner. Ernie was the 2004-2006 GFWC International President and a proud Wyoming Clubwoman. I encourage you to read the “Remembering Ernie” attachment to get a sense of this remarkable woman.

## **Karen Bard – President Elect**



Your bird lesson for this month will come from the birds of prey; keep your eye on the prize. Always go hard after the things you want. Make adjustments as needed. Utilize laser focus and bring home the prize.

*Falcons tend to train their eyes on their victims by constantly readjusting their flying position so that the prey appears motionless against the background. This helps them to effectively predict the future position of their prey, which enables the large birds to head off and intercept their*

*victims in the least amount of time. Did you know that our kestrel is the smallest bird in the falcon family. And it has gorgeous coloring.*

I don't want to think of any of our club officers and department chairs as victims. It is the new year and thus it is time to get all those project reports done. I will have my eagle eyes on my inbox looking forward to receiving and reading all the wonderful details of the many projects all our clubs and club women do to meet the needs of their communities.

I encourage all our Club Presidents to go back to the lesson of the geese; share the load. The President shouldn't have to write all the reports. I would like you to stay focused and meet the deadline by the end of the month so that I can do my job. If you are going to be late for some reason, please just drop me an email to let me know. If you have any questions, again please reach out. I am here to help you.

## **Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman**

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles and pictures to our Newsblast. Your articles have been well written--concise and to the point. Keep up the great work. As I have said numerous times – your pictures are worth a thousand words. I have received many positive comments regarding the fun-filled pictures you have included.

Regarding Membership: We are still concentrating on mentoring our new members. I believe that every club (except maybe the Fremont County Ladies) have “skeletons in the closet.” Those skeletons need to remain where they are. New members should not have to be subjected to old gripes and issues that have nothing to do with them. Seasoned club members should share their knowledge and positive experiences with the newer members. Everyone's enthusiasm and joy in being a club woman will remain bright if we are all pointed forward.

I encourage you all to join the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook or all kinds of information from our international officers and committees.



I would like to welcome Wyoming's newest club - GFWC Fremont County Ladies. 4 women from Cheyenne as well as Nancy Kaufman and Marcia Volner made a "day trip" to Riverton to formally present their charter and install officers.



### **Lucy Russell - Spiritual Values Chairman**

I want to share something to commemorate our Christmas Season. We in Wyoming have been having some interesting weather, with the wind and the small blizzard that came through. As I look around the country, I am glad to put up with a little wind. There are people who have died because of the storms that have been raging around our country. The earth seems to be in turmoil. I hope that we as women of GFWC can keep our heads above water and swim to the safety of the shore. Life can be difficult, but I feel that we as members of our perspective clubs can bring peace to many people with our charitable works. On Thanksgiving my husband and I were able to volunteer at the Salvation Army and to help prepare the meal. In December Women's Civic League of Cheyenne's Special Needs committee were able to bring Christmas to 78 folks with disabilities in the Cheyenne area. X-JWC took part in collecting books for Meals on Wheels, we also have been collecting coats for the homeless. Many groups in Wyoming I am sure have been doing similar activities of support for the folks in Wyoming and around the world. I think our clubs are good at keeping this spirit of giving during the whole year. If I was granted one Christmas wish it would be that everyone of us would keep this spirit of giving year-round and not just in December. I am looking forward to a new year and I hope that 2023 will bring you all that you wish for and more. Please remember for the coming year this quote by Helen Steiner Rice, "Peace on earth will come to stay. When we live Christmas every day."

### **Kathleen Petersen – East District Liaison**

Happy New Year from your East District Liaison.

Hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday Season and looking forward to the new year. My 2022 had a few challenges so I have only been able to visit the Yoder Woman's Club in November for their annual Pheasant Hunter's Dinner fundraiser. It's always amazing to me how a club with so few members can accomplish so much! Way to go Yoder!

I would like to visit the Women's Civic League of Cheyenne and Meadowlarks here in Cheyenne in the next couple of months. That would leave the Twenty-First Century

Clubin Newcastle to visit, and I'll wait till the weather gets a little more predictable to travel there (if there is ever such a time 😊).

So bring on the New Year!! I'm ready and I hope you are too!

### **Leslie Jo Gatti - Arts & Culture Chairman**

During January, the Rock Springs Community Fine Arts Center will be displaying works by Pinedale artist, Mae Orm. The collection is entitled "Kaleidoscopes." The works will be displayed from January 6 through February 11, 2023. In January and February there will be a Quilters Open hanging at the White Mountain Library in Rock Springs. The deadline for entries is January 4, 2023.

The Governors Arts Awards will be held on Friday, February 24, 2023 at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne, 2800 West Lincolnway, from 6 to 10 pm. These awards were established in 1982 with winners selected for their substantial contributions to the state of Wyoming. Tickets start at \$65 and may be purchased online at eventbrite.com.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. Stay warm while working on reports.

### **Flo Beville – Scholarships Custodian**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I have received checks from GFWC-WY clubs for the three scholarships: Mary N. Brooks, Paulena Hays, and Ruth Clare Yonkee. I have made deposits into each account. Thank you clubs.

In January I will be sending the last 2022-2023 checks to the colleges of the three recipients. I will be contacting the schools for the next round of applications which will be due in May. The information and applications have been updated and can be found on the GFWC-WY website. Click on More, then Scholarships, and there will you find the new information and applications.

I now have a Scholarship Committee formulated. A big THANK YOU to Karen Bard, Laramie Women's Club; Mary Lee Dixon, GFWC Meadowlarks; and Phyllis Salzburg, Women's Civic League of Cheyenne for agreeing to serve on the Scholarship Committee. Karen was the custodian for the last two years and has graciously agreed to stay on. She has been an invaluable asset to me for my learning curve. In the coming year, I will keep everyone updated on the activities and news of the Scholarship Committee.

### **Marianne Gatti - Civic Engagement and Outreach**

The Holidays are nearly behind us, as are most of our clubs' main fundraising efforts for this club year. As we come into the New Year, I look forward to seeing how all our

Wyoming clubs have made a difference in their communities. From coat drives, food drives and veteran stocking stuffing to community grants and scholarship awards, our Club Women make such a huge impact. Cheers to another great year in 2023!



**Deb McCann, ESO**  
Happy New Year!

#### The Christmas Present

When she was 10, she secretly looked for quiet places to enjoy a book – undisturbed –  
Oh, she loved to read.

A special book in her Christmas stocking,  
she declared that's all she would need.

A tale of the appealing amateur sleuth,  
the one and only Nancy Drew.

The teenage girl detective in the '60s  
the 10-year-old loved and knew.

My love of reading surely blossomed with Nancy Drew!

Did you receive a book for Christmas?

*I look forward to working with you to promote and increase ESO membership in 2023.*

*Happy Reading!*

#### **Bev Campbell - Advocates for Children Chairman**

Children may only be 20% of our population, but they are 100% of our future. That's why advocacy is core to Save the Children's work on behalf of all kids across the United States. December/January brings a time for children to be out of school to celebrate with family and friends. It also brings the first day of winter with the Winter Solstice on December 21. However, the weather doesn't seem to care about a date on the calendar and temperatures are dropping for many areas of the country. This is the best time for GFWC clubs to support families with children who are encountering financial hardships by organizing drives for winter gear - coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots.

#### **Starla Sexton- Leadership**

Call for LEADS Candidates!!!

Happy New Year! This means submitting applications for candidates for the GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar in 2023. Do you have members in your club that demonstrate leadership characteristics, that you would like to help grow?

Why not nominate them for the LEADS program this year? Your candidates cannot have attended LEADS in the past. The deadline to submit is February 1, 2023.

Attached is the application form and further information; or it can also be found on the [gfwcwyoming.org](http://gfwcwyoming.org) website under newsletters/forms and then forms.

Applications and a picture of your candidates need to be sent to [starlasexton@gmail.com](mailto:starlasexton@gmail.com). For further questions you can email or call 307-214-3340.

### **Phyllis Salzburg - Environment Community Service Program**



**WYOMING WILDLIFE**



Over 6000 game animals die in vehicle collisions in Wyoming resulting in \$20-30 million in wildlife costs and \$24-29 million in personal injury costs.

#### **HIGHWAY AND WILDLIFE FACTS:**

- 85% of crashes are with mule deer killing up to 4% of the entire mule deer population per year.
- \$11,600 is the average injury and property damage costs per big game collision.
- 30 seconds between vehicles is the time needed for deer to cross safely.
- 15% of all Wyoming crashes are with wildlife.

#### **SOME TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE ON THE ROADS:**

- Use high beams to see more of road as possible at night.
- Scan across the road and right of way frequently.
- Watch for eyeshine in headlights.
- Know wildlife is attracted to the road if salt is used as deicer.

The Wyoming Conservation license plate helps fund over- and under-passes for wildlife, signage, mowing, and fencing to help protect wildlife from vehicle collisions.

The Conservation plate application is available on the WYDOT website which can be downloaded and printed. A \$180 fee accompanying the application is required, and \$50 renewal fee in future years is required in addition to the regular license plate fee. Several business offer discounts, deals to those who have the license plate. Check out the Wyoming Game and Fish website for more information. Donations can also be made to the Wildlife Conservation Fund through WYDOT.

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Education/license-plate>

### **Karen Bard – Laramie Woman’s Club President**

We had a wonderful end of the year meeting with the High School Laramie Plains Choir coming to sing carols to us. We played Christmas Bingo with door prizes. We also ran the Christmas Bazaar at the Mansion’s Open House. It was a great two days and we raised 3 times the amount of money for the museum as we did last year. Part of that was because we took the plunge to get credit card capability. It worked out very nicely. I wish to thank Annie Nelson who was our leader again this year for our event. Much of what was not sold was donated to the Cathedral Home.

Our lunch was hosted by the board, and we had a lovely ham dinner with all the fixings. This year we had our members make the desserts and had a contest for the best dessert. Linda Simpson won a tiara and bragging rights for a year for best dessert. I must say they were all lovely, creative, and delicious. Our women had a wonderful time and a wonderful holiday lunch. Many women helped to make it so and I extend my thanks to one and all.

We hope everyone of our members across the state had a wonderful Holiday Season and are re-energized for the coming new year.

### **Marcia Volner – Women’s Club of Sweetwater County Acting President**



As some of our members gathered to work on report writing, we were amazed at how much we have done again this year. We also vowed once again to keep up better on documenting throughout the year.

Our holiday house was a great success. Lots of grants for the community college and community needs can be funded through this fundraiser.

Our Christmas Party was held on the worst night of the year so far, I believe, but 12 brave souls gathered and had a great time.

We look forward to another great year as Women’s Club of Sweetwater County!

### **Bev Yeik – Yoder Woman’s Club President**

The Yoder Woman's Club was asked to help the Yoder Church with cookies and help serve refreshments for their live nativity scene on December 10th. The cookies, hot cocoa, hot apple cider and coffee were welcome on a chilly evening. The Yoder Woman's Club moved their December meeting up a couple weeks to avoid the forecasted storm warning. We enjoyed an array of appetizers and exchanged White Elephant gifts after a short meeting.

We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

## **Denise Lathrop – Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne President**

From all of us in WCLC - *HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!*

December was a very busy month, but all the work was rewarded with a successful Christmas House weekend. We don’t have any numbers yet but watching the traffic flow we had a houseful each day. We were also invited to the large craft sale at the Archer Complex the next weekend where we were able to sell some of our extra crafts. A big thank you goes out to the Christmas House Chairs and their cohorts who manned the booth. In January we will begin our review of the grant requests and later this Spring we will be able to enjoy the granting of those requests.

At our January member meeting we will have the pleasure of hosting Kathleen Petersen, East District Liaison. We look forward to getting to know her and what duties she performs for the organization.



## **Barb Robertson - Meadowlarks President**

The month of December kept our team busy! We had a few of our members volunteer at Christmas House with all the wonderful ladies from Civic League the first weekend of the month. On the 10<sup>th</sup> our small group of ladies gathered to celebrate the season at Rib & Chop for our annual Christmas dinner. Gifts and laughs were exchanged for our last get together for 2022.



Finally, our project for the month of December was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> by delivering gifts and dinner to Family Promise where our group adopted 3 families who are currently staying in the Natalie House in the Hybrid shelter program. Members provided all the ingredients for a complete turkey dinner



with all the “fixins” (accompanied by recipes and instructions). The generosity of our members provided each of children multiple gifts from a wish list and gift cards and gifts for the parents. I encourage everyone to check out Family Promise website, as donations are needed still for the electricity for the homeless families here in Laramie County ([www.familypromiseofcheyenne.org](http://www.familypromiseofcheyenne.org))



## **Devon Kellerhall – Fremont County Ladies President**

The Fremont County Ladies would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support in helping us establish a GFWC club up here. The local ladies met for the first time on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. As we currently have minimal funds in our coffers, our first order of



business is to bolster that fund. To that end we have decided to hold a bake sale on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first 2 projects we would like to focus our energies on will be funding “empty” lunch accounts at our local schools and to create “personal items” locker at the middle and high schools. These lockers will include personal hygiene items donated for students who may not have or be able to afford these items.

### **Lucy Russell - X-JWC President**

At our December meeting we were entertained by Bob Mathews family with Christmas music. He and his wife were music teachers in Cheyenne. Bob has won the fiddlers contest many times over his career. He is a very accomplished violinist, and he also has a group he is a leader of which plays at Frontier Days and for other groups. This was very much enjoyed by all in attendance. We also collected items for Veterans Rock, which were individually packed food items. We collected about 120 items. We also collected books for a project that I was doing in December and donating to Meals on Wheels for each of their clients to receive a book for Christmas. Our members donated about 50 books. We are also knitting and make scarves for the homeless, in December Bev Campbell made 30 adult scarves and 15 children’s scarves for this project.

This is going to be an ongoing project for our club. At the board meeting this week we started the process of forming our nominating committee. We also had people volunteer to work on the by-laws committee with Patty Benskin. We are looking forward to a great time in 2023 and hope to add some new members to our club. I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Follow us on Facebook: GFWC of Wyoming

GFWC-Wyoming website: [www.gfwcwyoming.org](http://www.gfwcwyoming.org)

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