

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

Welcome to 2024! As we navigate the New Year, here's a list of deadlines for GFWC programs and awards. I hope you find it helpful. As always, contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for all you do!



Club Presidents' Reports – Karen Bard – February 1  
LEADS Application – Starla Sexton – February 1  
Community Impact Program – Denise Lathrop – March 1  
Photography Contest – Barb Robertson – March 1  
Writing Contest – Barb Robertson – March 1  
Website Contest – Jen Nowak (GFWC) – March 15  
Newsletter Contest – Jen Nowak (GFWC) – March 15

**Membership Alert** – Last year we gained in numbers, but this year we are down 12 members. Let's make a New Year's Resolution to get us back up to 430 Wyoming members by the time our dues are sent to GFWC on February 15. If every club finds just one member (lapsed or new), we would be thisclose!

### Karen Bard – Preident elect

I hope everyone got what they needed out of the holiday season. For some I am sure it was creating many new memories with family and friends. For others it might have been a much needed respite to recharge your soul and your batteries for the new year. My time was spent switching gears between some time for myself and hobbies, having a family emergency that set everything on its heels and helping my son pack for a move to Cheyenne.

But now we need to turn our attention to the end of year reports for all the amazing work we have done. The Laramie Woman's Club celebrated their 125th anniversary in December. Actual date was September 13th but we celebrated it in December. I was privileged to help prepare that celebration and to participate. I must say again, that doing the research and reading through our archives was a very humbling experience. The positive attitudes and challenges that our founding members took on was daunting. Then to put it into context of the times was humbling. So all of our club presidents, club department chairs, project chairs etc. if you haven't kept up with your reports as they happen throughout the year, now is the time to start reflecting on all that good work. Based on reading last year's reports the main area that I think needs improvement is the why you did the project. It is easy to say; 'Because we do it every year.' Something better to say is 'because the community supports us, we get better at it

every year, our schools need support in this area, brings our community together, etc.’ This will help our State Department Chairs out a lot.

Club Presidents, don’t forget to reach out and report on what your members do outside the club. Also, think about the leaders in your club, what leadership roles do they fill in the community outside the club. An area that saw no reports last year was legislative. Presidents should send an email out to their members and ask what they have done. Are they part of the legislative alert system at the National Level? I know I am, have been, and I didn’t report on it last year. Several years ago, our now State President, Trish, sat in the back of the state conference and signed members up to be part of this alert system. All the clubs should have a few members that are active. Please find out and report on it.

Not to put pressure on any club, but I have received one club’s end of year reports already. Good luck in getting them completed. Some clubs had change of leadership half way through the year, so everyone needs to get involved and assist your current Club President to get these done. If you need help please reach out to me.

**Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman**  
**INAUGURAL GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE HELPS RELIEVE FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER ACROSS 50 STATES! – PRESS RELEASE**

The inaugural GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) proved impactful in raising food resources for communities across the country. The results received from the “NDS Impact Report” indicate GFWC clubwomen collected 290,832 pounds of nonperishable food, recorded more than 40,000 volunteer hours, collected \$276,832 and contributed to the preparation of more than 241,672 meals.

“This year’s campaign focused on food insecurity and hunger. I am proud of GFWC club members for their dedication to helping others in need”, said Deb Strahanoski,

The GFWC NDS is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, and will spotlight food insecurity.

2023 was a good year and a not so good year for membership. Many of our clubs lost remarkable long-time members. Those ladies can not be replaced, but many of our clubs added new blood. We need to mourn the loss of those close to us, but we also need to embrace what our newer members bring to the table. We need to continue to look to the future of our Wyoming membership. So many people think that just because it is the beginning of a new year that it is the opportunity for a fresh start. Monday, January 1 will be no different than Sunday, December 31. Every day offers us opportunity. Let us approach every new day with positivity and optimism. Enthusiasm for your club work will attract new members. If your club has lost members or you have not been able to convince a particular person to join, don’t get bogged down in disappointment and negativity. Just as enthusiasm attracts, negativity repels. Too much negativity is like drinking poison and hoping someone else dies. Use any and every opportunity to promote your club. Let’s not replace those we’ve lost but compensate for our losses.

## **Lucy Russell - Spiritual Advisor**

I wanted to share some thoughts about New Year's Resolutions and the tradition of it. I went to the all-important source of Wikipedia and this is what I found out. I hope you all enjoy reading about this and maybe make a few resolutions of your own. A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year. Religious origins: Around 2000 B.C., the Babylonians celebrated the New Year during a 12-day festival called Akitu (starting with the vernal equinox). This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to return borrowed farm equipment and pay their debts. The Babylonian New Year adopted by the ancient Romans, as was the tradition of resolutions. The timing, however, eventually shifted with the Julian calendar in 46 B.C., which declared January 1st as the start of the new year and began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. At watchnight services, many Christians prepare for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions. In Methodist Christianity, the liturgy used for the watchnight service for the New Year is the Covenant Renewal Service; in addition to being traditionally held on New Year's Eve, many churches offer the Covenant Renewal Service on both New Year's Eve and on the morning of New Year's Day. This tradition has many other religious parallels. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. People act similarly during the Christian liturgical season of Lent, although the motive behind this holiday is more of sacrifice than of responsibility. The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

I hope this little history lesson gives you some food for thought about New Year's Resolutions. I wish you all a very happy new year.

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

We frequently show concern for adults needing support such as veterans, homeless, seniors, disabled, etc. but we don't seem to get involved with children of all ages. If you would like the club to be more involved with the needs of children, contact daycares, schools, churches, social workers, hospitals and other organisations that can provide you information about the help and needs of the children in your community. If you do come up with a plan for your club to do something special for our children, please share the information with the other Wy clubs.

I have a disabled niece. She volunteers with a group who work to save injured birds and animals. She is 13 years old and loves her job. She started helping after school when she was 9. There are many children being alone while parents who work. It would be great

to help them find something to do. Help them sew, paint a room, anything that helps them believe they can do whatever they want to do.  
Happy Holidays!

### **Leslie Jo Gatti – Arts and Culture Chairman**

Happy New Year, everyone!

January is a catch-up month after the busy Holiday season. This is the time to renew annual subscriptions to local theaters and ballet groups. As you are putting decorations away and find things you no longer use, you might consider checking with local theater groups (or even the local high school) to see if they have a need for your items, especially if they represent a specific time period.

Members need to start going through the photos you took in 2023. The April State Convention is just around the corner, and photos will be judged.

On February 23, 2024, the Wyoming Arts Council will present the Governor's Arts Awards in Cheyenne. Tickets begin at \$65. For more information, contact the Wyoming Arts Council or Eventbrite.com. Let me know what is going on around your hometown.

### **Phyllis Salzburg – Environment Community service Program Chairman**

The snow may be falling, wind may be howling, temperatures below freezing but it's not too soon to be thinking about SUMMER CAMP! Often the camp deadlines have come and gone before we start thinking about being outside, learning about and enjoying the great outdoors. And lest you think camps and fun, educational summer outdoor activities are just for kids, read on!



The Wyoming Game and Fish Department offers a variety of camps for kids, families, and just for women in the summer. Some take place at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp near Dubois. Becoming An Outdoor Woman application deadline is in March. The boys camp and girls camp application deadline is in April and family camps deadline is in May. Visit their website for information and to register.

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Education/Becoming-an-Outdoors-Woman>

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Education/Conservation-Education/Camps>

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited offers the Northern Colorado Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp in Ft. Collins in July with preference given to Northern Colorado and SE Wyoming youth ages 14-17. In addition to teaching the skills of fly fishing, the program encourages young people to better understand the need for coldwater conservation and about the Colorado TU mission. Information <https://rmftu.org/youth-day-camp> Note: The 2023 deadline was in April.

NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) in Lander offers many expeditions for young people and adults regionally and throughout the world.

<https://www.nols.edu/en/>

Outward Bound provides experiential and outdoor education programs throughout the year for youth and adults from the most remote locations in the U.S. to neighborhood schools and local programs. They also offer special trips designed for veterans and grieving children. <https://www.outwardbound.org/>

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity in the great outdoors, specifically the many ways to volunteer in our national parks go to <https://www.volunteer.gov>. Mary Lee Dixon, past GFWC-W State President, and her husband Dennis have served as park campground hosts. She may have some firsthand knowledge she would share with you!

There are many more opportunities out there but start researching now -- application deadlines are often early spring.

### **Deb McCann - ESO and Education & Libraries Chairman Books and Grandkids**



This Christmas I found a great basket shaped like a truck (and it has wheels!) at Home Goods. It was upcycled into a perfect bookmobile for our two grandkids ages 3 and 5. It was named the Christmas Bookmobile and is shown in the picture below. Santa and Pippin the Penguin were the drivers full of Christmas cheer. The bookmobile was filled with all sorts of Christmas books, including *Going on an Elf Hunt* by Patch Moore. I loved putting it together and the kids had great fun looking at each book and pulling the bookmobile around with a yarn pompom pull.



### **The Pack Horse Librarians**

During the Great Depression, the Pack Horse Library Project was a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program in which the librarians, who were often called "book women" or "book ladies," delivered books to remote parts of Appalachia. See the following recommendations to share their inspiring stories: *That Book Woman* by Heather Henson for ages 4 to 8 and *Down Cut Shin Creek - The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky* by Kathi Appelt for ages 8 and up. Adult readers may read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson, its sequel *The Book Woman's Daughter*, and *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. (GFWC ESO Book Club, FB)



### **The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)**

The LSTA is the only source of dedicated federal funding for more than 117,000 public, school, academic, government, and special libraries across the nation. LSTA Grants to States ensure that every state has access to needed resources and authority to determine their use. We must urge Congress to continue to make full funding for our nation's libraries a priority for 2024. For more information go to [ala.org](http://ala.org).

(GFWC 2022-2024 Education & Libraries Newsletter)

Please contact Deb McCann at [debmccann841@gmail.com](mailto:debmccann841@gmail.com) for information on becoming an ESO participant.



## **Starla Sexton – LEADS Chairman LEADS Candidates Wanted!**

Wouldn't it be amazing if every Club in Wyoming submitted a LEADS Candidate for the 2024 LEADS program??? Even though only one person can be submitted, it would mean we have so much leadership potential within our Wyoming Clubs. I am willing to bet we have a lot of hidden talent simply because our Clubs do

so many amazing things every year.

Now that I have you thinking, is there a gal within your club who would be the perfect LEADS Candidate?

GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) graduates gain capabilities and confidence to pursue higher office and the ability to serve within their club at a higher level. This year the GFWC Annual Convention will be held in Chicago June 28- July 2, 2024. The 2024 LEADS program will be held the day before on June 27th. 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 candidates is fast approaching, 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, call or text me at 307-214-3340 or via email.

## **Barb Robertson – Photography and Writing Contests Chairman**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is time to reflect on the last year, and what better way to do this

than in pictures! Did you take a once-in-a-lifetime trip this summer in the mountains, go sightseeing in Jackson Hole, or head to Yellowstone? Categories are listed online through the GFWC website!

The Annual Writing and Photography Contest due date for GFWC Wyoming will be due on 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.

Type	Name	Size	Last Updated	Last Updated By
pdf	2022-2024 Writing Contest & 23_23able.pdf	299.97 KB	8/4/2023 11:05:49 AM	cg@gfwc.org

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<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Monday-Friday from 9 am-5 pm)

Please send your submissions or drop them at my office, we

are open Monday – Friday, and someone is always there to accept photos. Please make sure to include your waiver, and we hope to see many of your beautiful pictures in Laramie at the State Convention!

## **Flo Beville – Scholarship Chairman/Custodian**

The Bylaws and Scholarship committees have wrapped up their work on the Bylaws and Standing Rules. Patty Benskin will be presenting the changes and new documents to the Board at the January Winter Board Meeting. The Committees have put in a great deal of work and effort since August on a mission to simplify, clarify, define, refine, and rewrite the Bylaws and Standing Rules for the Scholarships.

I have deposited club donations and sent checks to Wes Urick of LPL Financials to deposit in our investment account. Thank you so much to the clubs who have donated.

## **Nancy Kaufman - Nominations Committee Chairman**

The GFWCW Nominating Committee is still looking for some wonderful lady to fill the position of State Treasurer! 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, and Katherine Van Dell has wonderful documentation and will be available for support.

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

## **Marcia Volner--Women's Club of Sweetwater County President**



Holiday House is behind us for another year and we already have a house for next year. Reporting is done. Hallelujah!!

Merry Christmas from our club to yours.



## **Patty Benskin--Meadowlarks President**

The GFWCW Meadowlarks collected 100 hats and helped put together 140 Christmas Packages for the Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless. Pictured are members, Darlyn Tucker, Executive Director for the Coalition and Mary Lee Dixon.





**Claudia Wilen - WCLC President**

Happy New Year to all our members across the state! With the busy holidays behind us we can now turn our attention and efforts back to the betterment of all our communities.



Christmas House has come and gone but we are anxiously waiting to hear just how

all our time and efforts will enable us to benefit the community through disbursement of

the proceeds in 2024. Our Community Grant Committee has been accepting grant requests and will begin reviewing the submissions in late January as phase 1 of our funding allocations.



Members did muster up enough energy after Christmas House to partake in a few projects before

Christmas. The Military committee met to fill 57 stockings for our Vets who are often forgotten during the holidays. However, with the generous outpouring of support from our club members and the community these “stockings” grew into full-sized tote bags!



The Senior Services committee met at Point Frontier for an afternoon of gift wrapping for the residents and providing hot cocoa with all the toppings to them while they played bingo.



The Arts and Culture Committee was awarded a CGC grant in 2023 and continues their progress in bringing a bronze sculpture to downtown Cheyenne highlighting GFWC WCLC.

**Lucy Russell – X-JWC president**

We had a good meeting in December. We were entertained by Bob and Debby Matthews and some of their fiddlers. They played Christmas music, and we also sang along with some of the tunes. It got us into the Christmas spirit. In January we will be meeting on January 2nd for our General Membership meeting. Phyllis Salzburg will be collecting Christmas lights again for her ongoing disposal/recycling project. We will announce our 2024 CIP recipients. The club voted on 2 non-profit organizations to donate to next year, we also voted if we wanted one or two recipients and if we wanted to do it for one year or two. All will be revealed at our meeting in January. We will be having a speaker talk to us about human trafficking at our meeting. I as president will be getting everything gathered for the Presidents report which is due at the end of January. I wish everyone a happy new year.



## **Starla Sexton – Leading Ladies President**

### **Are you a GFWC Past President or LEADS Graduate?**

If so, you qualify to be a part of the Leading Ladies Club. We would love to add more of you to us!

We are a virtual club, so it doesn't matter where you live across the State. All our meetings are via zoom, which we keep to a minimum. We present a LEADS session at both the Fall Workshop and Spring Annual Meeting and have planning meetings prior to those events. Those who have spoken in the past have volunteered and done an outstanding job sharing their insight and wisdom.

Would you consider joining us and sharing what you have learned in your years with GFWC? Even if you are not a person who likes to speak publicly, the collective shares ideas that bring our topics to our sessions. Every Leading Lady is so valuable, we would love to have you join us.

I think the most amazing thing is all the information given in these sessions goes out to the GFWC Wyoming Clubs, so all benefit.

Membership is \$30/year, if you want to join us, please contact me via text, call 307-214-3340 or email [starlasexton@gmail.com](mailto:starlasexton@gmail.com).

**The Laramie Women's Club** celebrated their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please check out the link below to read the article in the Laramie Boomerang. (Photo courtesy of Karen Bard)



[https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/serving-the-community-since-1898-laramie-woman-s-club-celebrates-125th-year-reflecting-on-the/article\\_a810b4bo-a6af-11ee-a63f-a325c411b90d.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/laramieboomerang/news/serving-the-community-since-1898-laramie-woman-s-club-celebrates-125th-year-reflecting-on-the/article_a810b4bo-a6af-11ee-a63f-a325c411b90d.html)

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