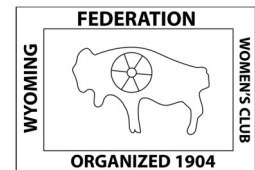




NEWSBLAST

TIMELESS STRENGTH & RESILIENCE OF
WOMEN

THE INNOCENCE & POTENTIAL OF CHILDREN



Happy New Year to all our GFWC Wyoming Sisters.

As we step into a new year, may it bring renewed hope, fresh energy, and continued purpose in all we do. I am deeply grateful for your dedication, kindness and countless ways you serve your communities and one another. Together we make a difference – through friendship, service and unity.

May this year be filled with good health, meaningful moments, and many opportunities to lead, serve, and grow side by side.

With gratitude and best wishes for a wonderful year ahead.

Karen – GFWC Wyoming President

PAGE 2

STATE OFFICERS MESSAGES

Important news about getting your project reports in. New Year Wishes and more.

PAGE 4

CLUB PRESIDENTS

Updates on coming events and notices for events in the new year.

It seems that everyone's Christmas fundraisers where huge successes this year!

PAGE 5

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Special notes in the Legislation and Children's Advocacy sections.

Contest and LEADS deadlines.,

Club Sisters News

Congratulations to Susan Arguello. She has been battling cancer for sometime now. She was our State Treasurer but stepped down to take this battle on.



She has announced that she finished 20 radiation treatments and completed her cancer treatment.

I know she has had a lot of support from her family and her Club Sisters. We are so happy for her.

Can't wait to see you again!

On a sad note we need to have Former Yoder President, Beverly Yeik ,in our thoughts and prayers. In mid-December she and her husband were in a terrible farm accident. Unfortunately, her husband did not survive.

Beverly is now out of the hospital and receiving support from her family for her recovery, both physically and emotionally. She tore her leg up real bad.

I know her Yoder Sisters are there to support her but so is her wider sisterhood. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to send her a card or note, here is her address.

Beverly Yeik
4427 Road 33
Yoder, Wy, 82244

GFWC Women's Club of Sweetwater County News

The women in that club have been fundraising for awhile now to assist in making an inclusive playground a reality.

We assisted in this fundraising at the State Conference in April of this year. The proceeds of the Authors and Artists fundraiser went to this project as well.

So happy to hear their announcement that the playground is now completed.



HOUSE PASSES TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS' RELIEF ACT

GFWC Highly Involved

What an incredible milestone after nine years of dedicated advocacy! Survivors of human trafficking are one step closer to meaningful relief. With the Senate's passage last night, this important legislation now heads to the White House for signature.

GFWC members have played a vital role, advocating consistently through our Legislative Action Center (LAC) and by raising our voices in support of survivors. This victory reflects the power of collective action and sustained commitment.

Thank you to EVERY GFWC member who took action, spoke up, and helped make this change possible. Our voices are being heard. Together, we make a difference.

If you aren't signed up to be part of the LAC; **Please** do it today.



A MONUMENTAL ADDRESS SECURED

On December 4th it was announced that the corner of Constitution Avenue and 19th St will be the home for the Women's Suffrage National Monument. This received unanimous approval from the National Capital Planning Commission for a permanent 2.5-acre site on the National Mall in Constitution Gardens.

GFWC has played a significant role helping to raise funds for this project of \$15,000 and have already made and surpassed that commitment.

Our Executive Team was on had to help celebrate this amazing Milestone. Next Phase is Monument Design.



Messages from your Executive Officers

PRESIDENT

Karen Bard

I found the GFWC Fundraising Committee's Newsletter full of very good ideas. And this one actually has ideas in it for Spring which gives us all time to implement the ideas offered. I have to admit that sometimes I find the information coming from National a Day late and a Dollar Short. By that I mean the information comes to us too late for us to act upon. Please read the September 2025 Newsletter that I received in my inbox on December 31st.

A big shout out to the Women's Club of Sweetwater County. They have an amazing new 11 members since September. I think we all need to learn their secret(s) in making this happen. Great Job! Hope to meet them soon.

Page 13 has the schedule for Sonja Hultz's webinar seminars. I found her first one to be very informative. I learned a lot!!! If you have any responsibilities inside or outside your club for social media, you should put these dates on your calendar and attend.

It is the New Year and that means project reports will be due by February 1st. I can't emphasize enough how important these reports are on so many levels. They are important for your club not only as a historical record but for you to let your community know what a vital role you play in supporting your community with your amazing work.

At the state level it helps us to share amongst all the clubs. I always find it amazing all the different amazing ideas that the various clubs have that can be helpful to other clubs. We also use the statistics on our Website and other literature to help elevate our awareness in the State.

Finally, when all the numbers and projects are sent up to National, they go armed with that information when they are on the Hill advocating for things like the Trafficking Survivors' Relief Act.

The work we do is very impactful at our community level. But when our work is brought together, it is powerful. It becomes a voice that cannot/should not be ignored.

We had a working session at our Fall Workshop on how to write a good report. One that has all the information that our State Chairmen need to do their jobs. I hope everyone who attended shares that knowledge with their clubs.

Be proud of the work you have done. We especially want to hear the *why* and the *impact* of your projects.

On page 12 I have shared with you a cute post-Christmas, 'Twas the Month After Christmas rhyme. I hope you enjoy it and Happy New Year to Everyone!

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Kent

Strong, powerful and influential women can come in all shapes, sizes, professions and ethnicities. I'm going to tell you about a modern woman that I admire, not because of her wealth or celebrity status, but because of where she came from and what she has and continues to do for children... got a bit ahead of myself.

On January 19, 1946, in a one-room cabin^[z] on the banks of the [Little Pigeon River](#) in [Pittman Center, Tennessee](#), Dolly Rebecca Parton was born .^[8] She is the fourth of twelve children.

Dolly has described her family as being "dirt poor". Her father could neither read nor write, but had an acute business acumen which Dolly

credits her father for her successful business ventures. She was brought up in the [Church of God \(Cleveland, Tennessee\)](#), in a congregation her grandfather, Jake Robert Owens, pastored. Her earliest public performances were in the church, beginning at age six. At seven, she started playing a homemade guitar. As soon as Dolly graduated from high school, at the age of 17, she moved to Nashville in search of her dream to become a country singer. Shortly after her arrival she became successful as a songwriter. At age 21 she was invited to appear on the Porter Wagner weekly show to which she became regular. This was the beginning of a 60 year career in the entertainment industry.

Dolly is not only a songwriter and country singer, she has also had hits on the rock and roll and R&B charts. She is and actress, an author and most importantly a philanthropist. Since the 1980s she has supported many charitable efforts, primarily in the area of education through her Dollywood Foundation. Since 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has delivered more than 165 million books to children around the world, instilling a love of literacy. Dolly made headlines during the pandemic due to her \$1 million donation to Vanderbilt University to help fund research for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccination. She was featured in TIME magazine's list of the world's most influential people for 2021.

This is only a brief introduction to a tremendously giving and caring celebrity. I recommend you check her out for yourself.

VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Katherine Van Dell

January 1, 2026, is fast approaching and I don't know about you but to me the months have flown by too quickly. Christmas Eve and Day went by quickly with all the activities involved with family and friends. It is my hope that my federated sisters and their loved one had a wonderful Christmas, I know I certainly did!

The Association year is at the time where clubs are encouraged to submit their membership numbers and plan for the months following such as what the club's focus are for the next three months. The months of January, February, and March focus on diverse and inclusive programming. Be sure you are considering all members' needs when organizing your calendar of events and activities. Ensure club programs are accessible and open to a diverse membership base. A club report on membership numbers and new member numbers is due to GFWC April 1.

Know Your Organization... Can you answer these 3 questions?

- 1. Who is credited with the founding of GFWC and in what year?**
- 2. What famous Wyoming woman was a member of the Woman's Club of Cheyenne?**
- 3. What is the Mission Statement of GFWC?**

TREASURER

Kristin Riley

Thank you to all our GFWC clubs in Wyoming. We have received everyone's dues and rosters for this club year. I truly appreciate everyone getting these sent in! Financial reports will be sent out in January. I hope everyone has a great New Years!

Messages from your Club Presidents

*Marcia Volner – Women's Club of
Sweetwater County*

We had our best Holiday House ever this year! We were excited to see many of our new members helping at the event.

Our Holiday House host selected the Humane Society to give 10% of our raffle proceeds to. \$320 will be donated to the Humane Society from the club.

We celebrated with a Christmas party at Sapporo's restaurant where a fun time was had



by the members as they celebrated a year of many successes. We also initiated another new member

making 11 new members since September.



We also supported our local Actors Mission by volunteering for front of the house tasks at their Christmas play, Sherlock Carol. We had some of the actors come in costume to Holiday House and do a couple scenes from their play. They also passed out small handbills. There were some people who attended who found out through Holiday House so we were glad to see we helped with attendance as well.

We will be selecting our book grant winners in January and taking a deep breath before starting in on more projects.

We will be celebrating Vi Gessner as a 50-year member!

Kristin Riley – Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful and restful season. The Women's Civic League of Cheyenne is proud to reflect on a very successful 57th Christmas House. This cherished community tradition would not be possible without the incredible support of our families, friends, volunteers and community partners. We are deeply grateful to everyone who came out to help support us this year. Thank you to our fellow GFWC sisters who stopped in to visit, shop, donate time and items. We appreciate you and your support! This year, we welcomed more than 1500 community members into Christmas House; ranging in age from just three weeks old to 96 years young. Many visitors shared stories of Christmas House being a treasured annual tradition for their families, including one family that makes their goal to be among the first ten through the doors each year. Hearing these stories reminds us why we do this work. Christmas House is not only about giving back financially, but about strengthening community connections and creating lasting traditions for families and friends.

After the busy season of Christmas House and all our Holiday item drives, it was a joy for our members to come together and enjoy a festive trolley ride through Cheyenne to admire the holiday lights and decorations. A heartfelt thank you to our Arts and Culture Committee for organizing such a delightful evening filled with great conversation and wonderful company.

As we move into 2026, our committees are focusing on how we can continue to be serve Laramie County. We will be advancing projects that began in the fall while also planning new initiatives for the spring. In the coming months, our Community Grante Committee will begin reviewing grant applications to determine how the funds raised from the 2025 Christmas House will be distributed; allowing us to share the success of our 57th Christmas House.

Messages from your Committee Chairs

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Marcia Volner

Along with the holidays there is unfortunately some depression. Programs that support the mental health of children might be a good place to donate.

Donating books to local pre-schools, schools, and libraries is a good project as funds are getting scarce. Also donating money for snack items for pre-schools is helpful as I know our college day-care is running short of funds for this.

Advocate through your state legislature to fully fund our pre-schools across the state as they are not being given the full amount due.

Check with schools or parks and recreation departments to see if you can add playground equipment that will help make playgrounds more inclusive for those with disabilities.

There is so much need so put out some feelers to find out what the needs are in your community.

Please see the flyer on page 12 regarding Child Developmental Center funding.

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

Trish Peoples

The Wyoming 2026 Budget Session is opening in early February. Our legislators will be discussing a few bills that GFWC Wyoming has shown interest in. I have three of them attached to the Newsblast so you can decide if you (or your club) would like to contact your local representative to give your opinion.

The first is HB004, Medicaid Coverage for Birthing Centers. This allows Medicaid to be used for

services provided by a birthing center. The Meadowlarks helped Earthside, a Cheyenne Birthing Center, become part of the Chamber of Commerce just a couple of years ago.

The second is HB007, SNAP Benefits Waiver Request. This bill asks that accessory food not be covered by SNAP. Some of these foods include spices, cocoa, and tea. Read the full list in the attachment. SNAP Benefits and their use falls under our GFWC Wyoming's focus on women and children.

The third is HB010, Sexually Explicit Materials in Libraries. This bill requires libraries to govern access of explicit materials to minors. GFWC Wyoming attendees at the fall workshop in Yoder discussed this bill at length. Since then, this bill has undergone significant changes. The \$50,000 fine for each transgression has been removed, and a challenge process put in place. Concerns still remaining with the bill are the additional burden this bill puts on librarians and the responsibility this bill removes from parents. Several fall workshop attendees expressed that their own sex education came from library books, and that 18 (as stated in the bill) is much too late to learn these lessons. I recommend you read the bill completely and decide on your own. Be warned, it isn't a g-rated read.

ENVIRONMENT

Lynn Prichard

I hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday season. LWC had a lovely holiday celebration!

As we begin a new year, it's time to think about what we can do for our environment. If many of you have a real (not artificial) tree I have a couple suggestions for you. As always you can leave your tree curbside for pickup (if available in your area), or take the tree to a drop off site for mulching. Use the boughs to insulate your garden and feed birds. Dry your tree and then use it for firewood and if your tree is rooted in a pot, plant your tree and watch it grow over the years. Trees store Carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Good for everyone. Happy New Year!!

LEADERSHIP

Kristin Riley

REMINDER!! Each club may submit one nominee to the Leadership Committee. The committee will select the one candidate who will represent GFWC Wyoming at the **LEADS Workshop** during the **GFWC International 2026 Annual Convention**, held in **Scottsdale, Arizona, June 26–29, 2026**.

Application Deadline: All LEADS applications must be submitted by **February 1, 2026**, to: Kristin Riley 3800 Dillon Ave Cheyenne, WY 82001

If you have questions or need help locating the application on the GFWC Wyoming website, please contact me at **(307) 287-6848** or via email at **krissydee@bresnan.net**.

PHOTOGRAPHY/WRITING CONTEST

Starla Sexton

Do you enjoy taking pictures or writing short stories? The GFWC photography and writing contest is fast approaching for the Spring Convention 2026. Your submissions need to be written or photos taken from January 1–December 31, 2025.



The categories for photos are-

- Our World Up Close
- Natural Wonders
- Reflections
- Living the Volunteer Spirit

The categories for the writing contest are-

- Poetry
- Short Stories

The deadline to submit is March 1, 2025. You can find the information for both contests on our website [Newsletters/Forms - General Federation of Women's Clubs of Wyoming](#)

under newsletter/forms on the lower left-hand side of the page under contests.

Last year's submissions were amazing. I am certain this year's will be just as breathtaking. Let's see your creativity!!!



Note: In the instructions for photography, you can submit them digitally, and it is encouraged to do so. This will solve issues with getting the photographs to me and it simplifies your submissions, so please give it some consideration.

ESO

Leslie Jo Gatti

The following members completed Bingo squares in December:

Leslie Jo – Romance, Travel book (**Bingo on left diagonal, bottom to top**) – 3rd Bingo. **Congratulations!!!** Book Containing a Map, Book by a Foreign Author (**Bingo, vertical far right**) – 4th Bingo. **Congratulations!!!** Poetry

Marcia – Book about Food (**Bingo on bottom horizontal**) 8th Bingo!!! – **Congratulations!!!** Mystery or Thriller (**Bingo on 2nd vertical from left**) 9th Bingo – **Congratulations!!!** Classic **THAT IS BLACKOUT!!!** Congratulations, Marcia!!! Now you can read whatever you'd like.

Marianne – Romance (**Bingo on Far Right Vertical**) 4th Bingo – **Congratulations!!!** – **Congratulations!!!** Book about a Hobby, Book Containing a Map (**Bingo on Middle Horizontal & Far Right Vertical**) 5th and 6th Bingos – **Congratulations!!!** 7th Bingo – (from left) 4th Vertical – **Congratulations!!!**

See Page 10 for the Bingo Sheet that you can print and use.

Event Calendar

April, 2026

GFWC Federation Day April 24th, 2026

May, 2026

**GFWC Wyoming State Conference in
Cheyenne, May 1st – 2nd, 2026**

June, 2026

**GFWC International Conference,
Scottsdale Arizona, June 25th – 29th**

If your club has an important event, fundraiser etc. Please send the information in so that it can be included in this list.

ESO Book Bingo

Book with a Black Cover	Historical Fiction	Science Fiction	Biography	Romance
Book Published in '24, '25, '26	Mystery or Thriller	Classic	Book About Women	Book About a Holiday
Nonfiction	Book of Poetry	Free – Any Book	Graphic Novel	Book Containing a Map
Book Checked out from the Library	Travel Book	Book Set in Another Country	Book from Your Book Shelf	Book by a Foreign Author
Book less than 150 pages	Book by a Wyoming Author	Book about Food	Book by New-to-You Author	Book about a Hobby

The reading includes books finished in August, 2025 or later.

1. A book may only count for one (1) square.
2. Readers must tell me in which category the book fits so I don't have to decide.
3. Titles will ONLY be accepted through March 31, 2026.
4. Only books – NO periodicals. Audio and e-books are acceptable.
5. I can be contacted by email (pc_ljgatti@hotmail.com), phone (307-350-0709), via snail mail (912 Peachwood Drive, Rock Springs, WY 82901), or in person (please, give me a list because I will NOT remember). You may give me titles before a Bingo is completed, if you want to.
6. Everyone who participates will be mentioned in the News Blast.

Goal for a Bingo is:

1. Straight line, either vertical or horizontal (5 titles). Multiple lines are encouraged.
2. Either 1 or both diagonal lines of five (5) titles.
3. Total blackout (all 25 squares) will receive a special prize.

'Twas the Month AFTER CHRISTMAS

'Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste.
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---

I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie.
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Author Unknown

HELP US SUPPORT SWEETWATER COUNTY'S LITTLEST VOICES!



Sweetwater County Child Developmental Center needs your support to ensure the developmental preschools across the state receive the per-child amount outlined in Wyoming State Statute 21-2-706 in the 2026 budget session.



NUMBERS

Sweetwater County average # of children served annually: 357



Statewide average # of children: 3,500-4,000



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your local legislatures and stress the importance of fully funding the CDCs across Wyoming!

Visit
<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislators>
to find contact information.

HISTORY

SFOO19 passed in 2024 to increase the state Child Development Centers' per child amount from the current rate of \$9,855.92 to \$12,300 per child.

For years, the CDCs have requested an ECA and have been denied the full amount needed to provide children with early intervention services.

This situation puts the CDCs at risk of drastically reducing services, if not closing altogether.



WSR ZOOM WORKSHOPS

WSR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN SONJA HULTS

In our clubs, communications are the bridge between what we dream of achieving and how our members, partners, and communities understand our work.

**NOVEMBER 10
MONDAY
@10AM**

**Crafting a Communications Strategy -
*Define Your Purpose * Identify Your
Audience * Shape Your Message * Select
Your Platforms * Measure Success**

**JANUARY 24
SATURDAY
@ 10AM**

**Media and Social Outreach -
*Know Your Story * Prepare Your Press
Release * Engage on Social Media * Build
Media and Community Partnerships *
Evaluate Success**

**MARCH 23
MONDAY
@ 10 AM**

**Digital Tools for Club Engagement -
Meet Virtually with Zoom * Share Your Story
on Social Media * Online Program for Emails
and Newsletters * Collaborative Online
Programs * Measure your Impact**

**JUNE 6
SATURDAY
@ 10AM**

**Digital Storytelling Getting to the HEART -
Find the HEART* Paint the Picture * Keep it
Simple * Repurpose the STORY * Measure
IMPACT *USE THE GFWC.ORG Strategic Plan to
make your story happen**

*RSVP to CFWCsonjahults@gmail.com
Zoom links will be sent out a week ahead of the workshop.
Questions? (760) 716 5315 Need help? Call me.*

