

KALEIDOSCOPE

A proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

January, 2017

President's Message

Katherine Van Dell

Good-bye 2016, hello 2017. Where did 2016 go? It is said that time flies for busy people and I can attest to that, the same as each of you can. We are a busy organization that does so much for our community and we can be very proud of that fact. As usual during many months each year, we are preparing for our Annual Christmas House. We spend time making craft items and baking Christmas goodies, then the first weekend of December arrives and we open the door to Christmas House. It is a lot of hard work, with long hours, but we take pride in our hard work when we hear the guests comment on the beautiful items that are displayed. I have heard many positive comments on this year's Christmas House, which is very gratifying. Being at the front door at this year's Christmas House, I was privileged to listen to the Kent men play the piano and sing Christmas songs. It certainly added to the festivities. Thank you, Gentlemen!

The Christmas Brunch went well. The program is always exciting, with presentations, drawing names for the raffle items, and purchasing remaining items from Christmas House. I was very happy to present bells to my 2016 Christmas House team Nancy Kaufman, Karen Kent and Tandie Opsal, and it was wonderful to have the team present AA Flo Beville with a bell. As always, the anticipation grows as we wait to hear the names of the next year's Christmas House team and it was exciting when Trish Peoples announced the names of her 2017 Christmas House team. Thank you to Linda Stowers and Trish Palluck with Flo Beville serving as the Administrative Assistant for taking on the responsibilities of being the 2017 Christmas House team. Moreover, they are off and running!

The next five months will see us award grants and scholarships. We have a lot of work ahead of us. Committees will assist many organizations financially in forwarding their various programs. The Community Grant Committee will be reviewing the many grants it will receive from charities and organizations, and then after considerable consideration the committee members will decide who will receive funds from the fruits of our labor. Next, the Education Committee will call for and receive applications for scholarships. Of course, we could not accomplish what we do if the community did not support us. What is exciting is that guests come

from other communities, such as Denver; Yoder; Torrington; Guernsey; Wheatland; Laramie; Burns; Pine Bluffs; and perhaps, other communities. We are very grateful for the support.

After the Brunch, it was time for us to concentrate on our own family Christmas activities. If you were like me, I had to finish sewing and crafting for family members. It was also time to do some baking and candy making. However, by Christmas Eve I was ready as I am sure you were too. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. I also hope you received some much needed and deserved rest, as it is now time to get back to work. Thank you all for everything you do to ensure the success of our organization.

Reading the year-end reports following the Board meeting on January 4, I am very proud and gratified of all the work our committees accomplish during the year. The chairs and members of the WCLC committees are to be commended for all they do for community members. Thank you!

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. Maya Angelou

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

Katherine Van Dell, President
Trish Peoples, First Vice-President
Patti Reese, Second Vice-President
Earleen Weaver, Recording Secretary
Barb Kuzma, Corresponding Secretary
Teresa Kunkel, Treasurer



Kaleidoscope
Published Monthly
September thru May
Linda Stowers, Editor
lpstowers54@gmail.com



Corresponding Secretary
Barb Kuzma

Cards sent to WCLC members during the month of December:

Mabel Wilson	Sympathy to Family	She passed away
Lori Millin	Thinking of You	Significant other has health issues
Luce Anspauch	Get Well	Health Issues
Connie Hein	Get Well	She fell

Second Vice-President
Patti Reese

CHEERS TO THOSE WHO INSPIRE US AND DON'T EVEN KNOW IT.

**GFWC WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND LUNCH**

Add a little "Cheer" to Winter

WHERE: Little America
WHEN: January 11, 2017
TIME: 11:30 Social – 12:00 Lunch and Meeting
COST: \$21:00

ENTRÉE #1 Roasted Chicken Feta Salad – baby spring mix with chicken, pine nuts, dried cranberries, tomato and feta cheese, with a light oil and vinegar dressing.

ENTRÉE #2 Roast Beef Sandwich – thin slices of USDA choice roast beef piled high on a bun with mayo, lettuce and tomato. Potato Salad.

Dessert – Little America Cheese Cake

RSVP YOUR MENU SELECTION TO PATTI REESE BY JANUARY 6, 2017

At 3:00. preese627@gmail.com or 640-404

ESO BOOK CLUB

BOOKS FOR THE YEAR 2016-2017

We will meet at Barnes & Noble on the dates listed below at 9:15 am.

January 23-The Wright Brothers by David Mccullough

February 27-Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck

March 20-All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

April 17-Girl Waits with gun by Amy Stewart

May 15-Mrs.. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini

NEEDS FOR JANUARY

Chris Shay has requested the following Needs:

Jelly or Jam

Peanut Butter

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Youth and Family Services continues to provide books through the book bag program. Books were provided to Head Start, LCCC Pre-School and YMCA after school program.

Blankets for Laramie County Kids *



Invites you to join us in making fleece-tied blankets
for kids in crisis in Laramie County at our

2nd Annual Blanket Party

Saturday, January 21, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Cheyenne Evangelical Free Church
7006 N. College
(If you get to 4 Mile Rd., you've gone too far)

Call Jan @ 635-4162 *or* Sue @ 421-0396 with questions.

Please bring a donation of a skein of yarn (no wool).

All supplies for the blankets will be provided, and there will be a small bake sale and craft sale, as well as door prizes, for participants. Soup lunch will be served.

*Affiliate of Laramie County Community Partnership

X-JWC

X-JWC Bunco Fundraiser: February 10, 2017 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Dinner is Chicken and Noodles, served at 5:30. Bunco starts at 6:15. There will be a 50/50 drawing. The price for Dinner and Bunco is \$12. To sign up, please call Karen Lee by February 3rd. Her phone number is 640-5804.

JUNIORETTS

I hope all of you have had a fun and joyous holiday season. May you and your families have a terrific start to the new year.

Speaking of the new year, my daughter, Sarah, and I have set dates for Juniorette meetings for the first three months of 2017. If you know of any interested young ladies who would like to join the Junioresettes or find out more about the group, please mark your calendars with the following information and invite them to attend one or all of these Juniorette meetings:

Sunday, January 29th: 1:30-3 pm in the Windflower room at the Laramie County Library

This will be a planning meeting for activities the group will do from February through May. We will also determine the organizational structure of the group (President, Vice President, Secretary, committees, etc.)

Sunday, February 26: 1:30-3 pm in the Willow room at the Laramie County Library

Sunday, March 19th: 1:30-3 pm in the Windflower room at the Laramie County Library

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of these meetings or Junioresettes in general.

Happy 2017!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

That time of year is rapidly approaching. As chairman of the nominating committee I am seeking recommendations and/or volunteers for candidates for office. If you are interested, please e-mail me at patual@onemain.com. The slate will be read at the March meeting. Don't be shy. Pat Stenback

YEARBOOK CHANGES

Active Member Trish Pollock add her cell phone: 307-630-8700

CHRISTMAS HOUSE 2016

OUR SURVEY SAID.... CHRISTMAS HOUSE SURVEY, THAT IS!

During Christmas House visitors riding the trolley back to the church were asked to complete a survey about Christmas House. Some others filled out the survey while in the cashiers' area. Those riding the trolley had some time to reflect on the 2016 Christmas House and were sitting down, enjoying the ride! We only received 166 completed surveys as there were 3 trolleys and survey-takers on only two (and not the entire time) but feel they were pretty representative of the 1800 visitors this year. This was not a scientific survey!

Results – most of our visitors were from Cheyenne. Others came from Laramie, Denver, Casper, Ft. Collins, Torrington, Scottsbluff, NE, Ogallala, NE, Rawlins, WY, LaGrange, WY, Greeley, CO, Loveland, CO, Avondale, AZ, Boulder, CO, Las Vegas, NV, Lamosa, TX, Botswana Africa (was someone pulling my leg??), and of course Yoder, WY. I am sure there were visitors from other places in the region and around the country.

The second question asked how many Christmas Houses they had attended. There were many first timers. There were also quite a few who couldn't actually remember how many they'd attended – they answered “many” – and many others who have seen 15, 20, 25, 30! The average of the 166 who completed the survey was 7.67 Christmas Houses.

Next, how they heard about Christmas House. Of our paid advertising, most said the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, and then the television advertising. BUT, a large percentage of those responding heard about Christmas House from our members and word of mouth.

They were asked next if they had other plans after Christmas House – hands down they were going to lunch and shopping!

The last question asked for comments about this year and suggestions for future Christmas Houses. It was really rewarding reading the responses (most of them)!

Here's a sample: Wonderful! Beautiful! Great! Really nice items! Lovely gifts! Fun cool stuff! Well done! Excellent selection/variety of items – good value. Wonderful hosts – kudos to all! Reasonable prices (and the converse was also stated – more reasonable prices next year). Awesome house. Nice choice this year, keep doing what you do! Very unique –fun thing to do. It's perfect. Lots of great volunteers. Thanks for all your hard work everyone! Always come to Christmas House – we loved this home – see ya next year! Many positive

comments about the shuttle and the wonderful people at the church who invited our visitors in and treated them to cookies and hot drinks. And someone said thanks to the sponsors!

And for the future, some suggestions: More Christmas plates; Christmas stockings; cherry chocolate bark; salt free seasonings; greenery pieces; squeaky pet toys; more blankets (was that for the warming tent??); fancy tree; more bigger ornaments; more days, please; fewer steps. Warmer weather or warmer holding tent ☺

BY-LAWS AND STANDING RULES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BI-ANNUAL BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES REVIEW

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES are not the most exciting part of being a member of Women's Civic League of Cheyenne. However, they are an essential part of the smooth operation of our, indeed any, organization.

On Monday, January 23, there will be a meeting for any active, associate or lifetime member who is interested in attending the bi-annual review the Bylaws and Standing Rules of our group. The meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Wendy Owen, 2700 Carey Avenue. If the review goes smoothly, it should end by noon or earlier.

Please let parliamentary advisor Sherri Geringer know if you plan to attend. Email mrsg@wyoming.com or phone 631-4814 to respond. Thank you for giving your time to this important part of WCLC.

Club Websites!

GFWC: www.GFWC.org

GFWC-Wyoming: <http://www.gfwcwyoming.org>

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne: <http://www.womenscivicleaguecheyenne.org>

Christmas House Facebook page: GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

Group e-Mails

GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne: wclcmembers@googlegroups.com

WCLC social group (non-club topics): wclcsocial@googlegroups.com

WCLC Board of Directors: wclcboard@googlegroups.com