



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

Happy 120th Birthday, GFWC Wyoming! We were officially added to the General Federation on March 24, 1904. Take some time to celebrate!

The Call to Annual Meeting is coming out shortly. Please plan to join your GFWC sisters in Laramie, April 25-27. As part of our fundraising (and fun) events, there will be an Art, Wine & Cheese Event on Friday evening. **I am asking each club to bring something to be raffled off that evening.** It can be a themed basket (baked goods, movie night, spa) or a stand-alone item such as a quilt or jewelry. Bring them to registration table when you check into the annual meeting.

As a reminder, there are many documents due to GFWC by March 15. They include:

- Website and Newsletter Contest entries
- LEADS candidate information
- State Award and Creativity Awards for Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, Health & Wellness, Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention, Advocates for Children, Communications & Public Relations, Leadership & Public Policy, Membership, Fundraising & Development, and Women's History & Resource Center.



Thanks to all of you who worked so hard in these areas. Contact me if you have any questions.

Karen Bard – President elect

As per last year it has been humbling to read all the wonderful work that our ladies and clubs do for their communities. We had 241 projects turned in and those were all sent out to the State Chairmen for review and selection to go onto National. I want to thank all of the Presidents for working in such a timely fashion and for helping solve the few issues that arose during the process. As well as those members who assisted their Presidents in writing these reports. I also want to take this time to acknowledge our State Chairmen and the time that they put in reading your reports and writing up theirs. This process takes many hours to complete, but luckily it is divided amongst a number of individuals to make the process go smoother. This year, we had a couple of people step up to take the work load of others who for various reasons couldn't fulfill their roles. Many thanks to them as well. It is inspiring to see women pick up needed tasks so readily.

I am looking forward to our State Annual Meeting. Planning sessions are well in order and we are excited about the agenda, the events, speakers, meals, you name it. I sincerely hope that everyone will consider coming to the conference and encourage all new members and longer term members to make this your first state annual meeting, if you have never attended one before. This year we are offering some additional flexibility to hopefully get more of our members to attend. As a member of the Laramie Woman's Club I extend our warm invitation for everyone to attend. I hope to see many of you there.

Karen Kent - Vice President/Membership Chairman

I would like to welcome Angela Leone from Worland to the Women's Club of Sweetwater County. Thank you for contacting me with your interest in GFWC. We would absolutely love to have a new club in Washakie county!

Building our clubs and growing the GFWC membership of Wyoming is something we have been talking about for a very long time. Has your club been active in seeking out new members? If your club is having difficulties in the area of membership, I would encourage your membership chairman to check out the top 10 projects and the newsletter put out quarterly by our National Membership committee.

There are so many women in our communities that are not able to attend a daytime meeting, so why not hold evening meetings. There are many more professional women who have so much to give. Our clubs may need to adjust their flexibility in order to tap into that reservoir. Keep in mind "if you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." Be creative, go crazy, get excited! Show the women of the world who are not GFWC members just what they are missing.

"Those who do not think outside of the box, are easily contained."

Flo Beville – Scholarship Chairman

We will be awarding three scholarships this year, Mary N. Brooks, Paulena Hays, and Ruth Clare Yonkee for \$1,200 each. Therefore, in February I sent all the information to high school, college, trade school, etc. counselors all across Wyoming. Applications are due April 15, 2024.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED: The Scholarship Committee has a couple of openings. This is your opportunity to help our young students advance their educational pursuits. Membership on the Scholarship Committee entails receiving and reviewing Scholarship applications, rating/grading the applications, and making your choice for recipients and alternates. We will meet in late April/early May in person and/or via zoom. It is very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of young students who need assistance in their education pursuits. Please contact me, Flo Beville, (307) 421-3011, or email robi53@msn.com to be a part of this important committee. We would like representation with different clubs in the State.

Because Karen Bard is stepping into the Presidency, she will be leaving the committee. Please consider this as part of your GFWCW commitment.

Marcia Volner - West District Liaison

The Women's Club of Sweetwater County recently added a virtual member from Worland. This is exciting news as this person would also like to start a club in her area. If any of you know of ladies in the Washakie County area who might be interested in becoming members of our great organization, please let Karen Kent or myself know so we can follow up. Let's spread the spirit of our wonderful volunteer organization.

Phyllis Salzburg - Environment Community Service Program Chairman

What the world needs is MORE COWBOYS! When we read about just some of the work being done at the University of Wyoming and the positive impact research, degrees, special programs and projects are having on the environment, not just in Wyoming but throughout the world, you'll definitely agree! Here is some information from and about programs at the University of Wyoming. It sounds very academic because it came from UW sources!



The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, established in 1993 at UW "advances the understanding and resolution of environment and natural resource issues." One program, the **Wyoming Conservation Corp** emphasizing experiential, place-based learning and training of the next generation of environmental leaders and problem solvers, is housed within the Haub School. The Ruckelshaus Institute, also a division of the Haub School "advances the understanding and resolution of complex environmental and natural resources challenges in the Mountain West." They do this by promoting collaborative decision making solutions, bringing together stake holders and decision makers at conferences and forums, helping develop outreach materials and much more.

WYOBIRD, Wyoming Bird Initiative for Resilience and Diversity– advances knowledge, appreciation and conservation of birds locally and globally. The initiative achieves this by training a new generation of scientists at UW and sharing science through networking, public outreach, and seminar speakers. Since 1970 more than a quarter of our bird population in the U.S and Canada has been lost making the study of ornithology all the more important. Students involved in WYOBIRD led and assisted with projects in Albany County last fall.

The Department of Plant Sciences programs train those who want to work to feed a growing population and improve the quality of the environment through an interdisciplinary and highly practical degree program designed to prepare students for "real world" situations. The Department offers a degree in **Plant Production and Protection**.

At the **UW Biodiversity Institute**, the focus is on education, research, and conservation outreach. Some of their community science programs include the Laramie Salamander Migration Initiative, Moose Day, Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project, and Mullen Wild Fire Community Science Initiative.

Just a smattering of the good environmental work being done in Wyoming, for Wyoming and the world! And we didn't even get into water! For more information just Google UW or any of the programs, projects above.

Marianne Gatti - Civic Engagement and Outreach

It is almost Spring! St. Patrick's Day, Easter, flowers and warmer days are just ahead. Well, it's Wyoming, so more snow and wind will be liberally sprinkled with beautiful spring-like weather. As we remember it is still winter, how are your clubs continuing to help the community? I've been busy Chairing the Community Grant Committee to disburse funds from Christmas House to Laramie County organizations. We are also still gathering goods and filling baskets as we continue our year-round good works. Scholarships for Spring term have been received and evaluated and we are looking forward to summer engagements already.

As I read through all the Civic Engagement and Outreach reports all the clubs sent in for last year, I am in awe of how much our clubs do and provide throughout the state. I can't wait to hear about all the projects when we meet in Laramie for State Convention the end of April. Our communities have hit the jackpot with you. Keep up the good works!



Deb McCann - ESO and Education & Libraries Chairman

Read Across America Week is celebrated from March 2 to 6. Dr. Seuss's (Theodor Seuss Geisel) birthday is celebrated on March 2. The National Education Association endorses the importance of reading. A lesser-known fact about Dr. Seuss is that he created the word nerd.

The first public library in America is considered to be the Franklin Public Library in Franklin, Massachusetts, which named itself in honor of Benjamin Franklin. The town asked him to donate a bell for the church tower, but Franklin instead gave books that were used to establish the library. In a letter to Richard Price, he wrote – "I have advised the sparing themselves the expense of a steeple, for the present, and that they would accept of books instead of a bell, sense being preferred to sound."
(GFWC 2022-24 Education & Libraries February 2024)

ESO Member Responsibilities

ESO members are encouraged to participate in club programs such as:

- Reading

Participating in reading/study/discussion groups

- Working to achieve higher ESO levels

- Continuing to pursue self-improvement through personal study

(ESO Handbook Revised June 2022)

Please contact Deb McCann at debmccann841@gmail.com for information on becoming an ESO participant.

Barb Robertson - Photography/Writing Contest Chairman

Update from Photography Contest from 2023

Karen Kaler Bruce, GFWC Photography Chairman, announced that on March 7th, the Thumbs Up Thursday presentation will be all about the Photography Contest. This presentation can be found under the GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum page on Facebook. It will remain there even after the 7th for future viewing. What she has showcased are the photos from last year's contest. This gives members a feel for what a winning photo looks like in each of the 4 categories.

Also, the Creative Arts Waiver form has been updated and box 3 has been eliminated. If you have old forms, please do not use them.

Last year headquarters received 119 photos from 35 states. Karen Kaler Bruce is hoping to have even more entries this year.

The Photography Contest information can be found in the online Club Manual under "C" for contests. The waiver form can be found directly after the contest information pages. The winning photos will be sent directly to GFWC Headquarters.

She looks forward to seeing all your state's winning photos!

Leslie Jo Gatti – Arts and Culture Chairman

As everyone is finally getting used to writing 2024 for the New Year, it is time to ready ourselves for the State Annual Meeting in Laramie. Five Wyoming Clubs contributed \$ for Art for this fiscal year. Those 5 Clubs are eligible to submit Youth Art to be judged and displayed at the State Convention. Those Clubs are Laramie Woman's Club, Women's Civic League of Cheyenne, Women's Club of Sweetwater County, X-JWC, and the Yoder Woman's Club. I will contact those Clubs as soon as I have information about the State Convention. The judging will be done in Laramie at the Annual Meeting. Plan on getting your Youth Art to the Convention. If you have any questions, please, contact me. The forms are on the State Website under Youth Art forms. Each piece must have a form. Please, adhere to the size requirements (or restrictions, in some cases). Each student must also have a Creativity Waiver. Those can be found on the GFWC Portal.

Now is also the time to check local Colleges and high schools for their theater productions and Spring concerts. Those are usually very good productions and need our local support.

Marcia Volner - Women's Club of Sweetwater County President

We had an informative speaker at our general meeting in January who talked about the current laws regarding wills and trusts in Wyoming. If you haven't reviewed yours lately it would be a good thing to do to make sure what you want to happen does. It is very easy to add your club or the state GFWC into your trust to receive some money when you pass and something to think about. In February we had a speaker from our Senior Center come and talk to us about the exercise programs available at their facility for

adults. We will write our speakers up as projects for reporting. We find keeping a running list and writing reports as we go is very helpful when you sit down to do the reporting at the end of the year.

Reserve the date: April 13th the Women’s Club of Sweetwater County will be hosting a pancake fundraiser at Applebee’s in Rock Springs from 8-10 am. Come one, come all!

Lynn Prichard – Laramie Woman’s Club President

March is just already upon us and it is roaring in like the proverbial lion. One can only hope it exits like a lamb.



Laramie Woman’s Club sponsored our Bunco fundraiser on Sunday February 25. There were lots of tasty treats, wine and door prizes. Everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves. Vice President Karen Kent and her husband Moss were able to join us in the festivities. Proceeds will be donated to Feeding Laramie.



On Wednesday February 21, Gina Gibson from LWC presented First Lady Jennie Gordon with a check for \$500 from LWC, Lighthouse Ministries, and the Merry Mermaids (swim class at Laramie recreation center). The monies will go towards the Wyoming Hunger Initiative. The presentation took place at the Governor’s Prayer Breakfast in Cheyenne in front of 650 people. Let’s hope they all went home with a desire to work towards ending food insecurity in Wyoming.

Claudia Wilen – WCLC President

February was an active month for WCLC, but perhaps the most exciting news was the announcement of the location of Christmas House 2024. This year’s event will be held at the home of former Governor Jim and (club member) Sherri Geringer. Our chairwomen have been hard at work with details of the initial phase of this year-long project.



Senior Services assembled Valentine bags with goodies and a rose for each of the 56 residents at Legacy Senior Residences, a 55+ senior apartment complex. They hand delivered them to a very surprised and grateful group of people.



Our Military committee, in conjunction with the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and the FE Warren Spoused club, once again participated in the Cookies for Airmen on Valentine's Day. 870 dozen cookies were delivered to FE Warren AFB as well as the Wyoming National Guard with the help of 16 WCLC members who provided 78 dozen cookies.

The Arts and Culture committee hosted 16 members on a tour of the Alexis Drake studio where they were able to see the art of making leather purses and accessories from start to finish. Alexis, a hometown girl, is a talented artist who has found her calling not only in the medium of beautiful leather, but also in the world of the successful business woman who "believed she could".



Health and Wellness has designated Safehouse in Cheyenne as their project of concern for the remainder of the club year with members donating laundry products in January. Twin bedding, bath towels, and toiletries were the focus in February.

The Nominating Committee met to form a slate of officers for the club year 2024-25. This list will be presented to the Board for approval this month with the general membership voting in April. We are grateful for those members who are willing to serve in an elected position.

Lastly, WCLC lost a lifetime member and past president, Ruth Storey. She was not only a vibrant member of WCLC but also participated in many local endeavors in her life of service to the Cheyenne community.

Patty Benskin - Meadowlarks President

Even though the GFWCC Meadowlarks claim to be a Spring/Summer club, the ladies cannot pass up the opportunity to serve our community. On Feb 10th, 7 ladies and one honorary member (Zach Kaufman) got together at the home of Karen Kent and hand decorated 52 dozen sugar cookies to go to Cookies for the Airmen for Valentine's Day. The Larks have participated in this project for the last 5 years.



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GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfwcwyoming.org

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