

**Wyoming News Blast**

**May 2021**



**GFWC Wyoming President's  
Message – Nancy Kaufman**

**Proud GFWC  
members  
Since 1904**



**Be the Light**



What a wonderful and productive Annual Conference we just completed! It could not have been accomplished without the outstanding support of the Laramie Women's Club and the state board members and I sincerely thank each and every one of you! We enjoyed the marvelous company of GFWC International Second Vice President Wendy Carriker and reveled in being able to see each other face to face. Hugs abounded as clubwomen from 7 of the 8 active clubs were in attendance.

In accordance with the Presidents Project on Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention, the Conference featured speakers on the Buddy Bench project (on which the Women's Club of Rock Springs is already rocking it!), NAMI (a heart-tugging presentation on the international clubhouse project where the first one, Robbie's House, is being planned in Laramie), and Grace For 2 Brothers (a sobering revelation on the incidence of suicide in Wyoming). All three speakers left us with a burning desire to do more to support them. Clubs have put their heads together to work on benches, fundraising for Robbie's House, and planning a QPR training session on how we, as laywomen, can help someone in crisis.

Clubwomen also gave, and gave again, as usual. A truckload of food for the Interfaith Pantry in Laramie was collected as were over 100 bras for the Free the Girls Project and so many shoes for the Nike Grind project that Flo had no more room in her car. And if that wasn't enough, enough rolls of dimes were collected for the March of Dimes that the wagon wheel we constructed was 48 inches in diameter – over \$500worth!! GFWC International has also challenged clubs across the country to make 2021 baby hats and blankets for March of Dimes in the year 2021 and club presidents quickly signed on. As individual clubs, we are great but collectively we are awesome!

I hope many of you plan to join board members and our LEADS candidates (Heather Dodson 2020 and Starla Sexton 2021) at GFWC International Convention in Atlanta August 27-30, 2021 – it is a good way to really see how we all fit together as GFWC Women's clubs. Registration is now open in the Member Portal. More importantly, WSR will be held in Colorado Springs two weeks later. Hosted by GFWC Colorado this should be a lot of fun – and who doesn't like a road trip? More to follow on this as registration opens.

Finally, there will be no Newsblast in June or August but please watch for e-mails from me as pertinent information comes up. And no, I will NEVER send an e-mail soliciting money so if you see any of those, ignore them. I will be looking into QPR training and scheduling a Board meeting and a Fall Workshop. The website will be updated by July 1<sup>st</sup> with new Directors, club presidents and calendar. Remember and that random acts of kindness, both given and received, can make a profound difference. Remember that mental health also refers to a positive state of mind too so take care of yourselves and those around you. Remember to Be the Light.

Yours in Federation – Nancy

Re: Kaleidoscope “We are more alike my friends than we are unlike” – Maya Anjelou

## **Dean of Chairmen**

### **Trish Peoples**

Dean of Chairmen Trish Peoples



This is the GFWC Wyoming Wagon Wheel made from 5,050 dimes. That’s right—we gathered \$505 for “March of Dimes”!

We also gathered 145 bras for “Free the Girls,” a nonprofit dedicated to helping women rescued from human trafficking. The bras will be given to these women so they can sell them for income. I’ve also heard at least one club is still gathering bras, so there will be more to report later.

I’m also happy to say I went home with many old sneakers for “Nike Grind.” They will be ground up to use as playground material. I haven’t counted them yet because I know there are more shoes coming. I’ll let everyone know in September how we did.

As you know, we honored the clubs for their work during 2020. The full list of winners and the anniversary scrolls for our clubwomen are attached.

### **GFWC Wyoming 2020 Certificates of Merit**

#### **Signature Program: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention**

Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs

Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne

Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club

**Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Meadowlarks
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

**Arts and Culture Community Service Program**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman's Club
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

**Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Meadowlarks
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman's Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

**Education and Libraries Community Service Program**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman's Club
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

**Environment Community Service Program**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman's Club
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club

**Health and Wellness Community Service Program**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman's Club
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman's Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne

**Communications and Public Relations Advancement Plan**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Meadowlarks
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club

**Fundraising and Development Advancement Plan**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Meadowlarks
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne

**Leadership Advancement Plan**

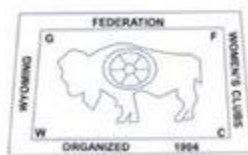
- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Meadowlarks
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne

**Membership Advancement Plan**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Yoder Woman’s Club
- Category 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC 21<sup>st</sup> Century Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs
- Category 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club
- Category 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne

**Women’s History and Resource Center**

- Category 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Casper Active Service Club
- Category 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne
- Category 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne



**GFWC Wyoming 2020 Anniversary Scrolls**

**50-Year Recipients**

**Evelyn Allen – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Judy Dray – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Van Mellblom – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**

**40-Year Recipients**

**Bonnie Brown – GFWC WCLC**  
**Marilyn Cole – GFWC WCLC**  
**Jeanne Hickey – GFWC WCLC**  
**Arlene Lowery – GFWC WCLC**  
**Iris Trosper – GFWC XJWC**

**30-Year Recipients**

**Rosemary Barrett – GFWC WCLC**  
**Pat Caldwell – GFWC WCLC**  
**Lori Kerrigan – GFWC WCLC**  
**Suzanne Preiss – GFWC WCLC**

**20-Year Recipients**

**Carolyn Melber – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club**  
**Norine Samuelson – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne**  
**Tina Shalata – GFWC Woman’s Club of Rock Springs**

**10-Year Recipients**

**Margaret Arth – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club**  
**Jo Anne Bassett - GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Bonnie Braisted – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club**  
**Sherri Geringer – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Jackie Gonzales – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club**  
**Betsy Hartman – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne**  
**Shelley Herr – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Cathy McMikle – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**  
**Donna Newland – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne**

**Darlene Olson – GFWC Laramie Woman’s Club**

**Patti Reese – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**

**Susan Shaffer Johnson – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**

**Carolyn Turbiville – GFWC XJWC of Cheyenne**

**Katherine Van Dell – GFWC Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne**

### **Club News**

#### **Woman’s Club of Rock Springs**

Edna Larsen

What a great convention! I can’t imagine how tired you Laramie and Cheyenne ladies were. All I could do on Monday was sleep. Our last official board meeting was held on May 6. Installation of officers will be held on May 18 as an evening gathering, the last until September. In the meantime, brainstorming and plans have begun for projects for the coming year. We will have a garage sale at Judy Litchfield’s home on June 12. By-law changes will be made this summer for approval from members in the fall. We presented our mayor with a check for \$750 for benches at the columbarium on April 27. May everyone have a safe and wonderful summer. Our summers are short so enjoy.

Edna Larsen

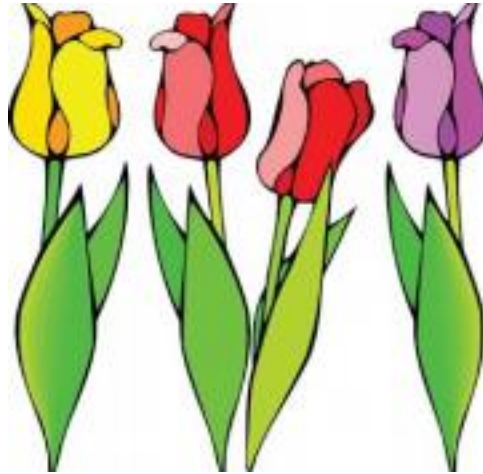
WCRS

**Laramie Woman’s Club  
Adrienne Polis President**

Spring greetings to you all. April was a busy and productive month for Laramie Woman’s Club. Our flocks of fund-raising flamingos spread across the town. The 2021 GFWC Wyoming annual conference at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center was a hit. Our booths at Bart’s are chugging along with lots of donations and steady sales. At the 2021 conference besides recognition for our community service and fund raising in 2020, we

brought in \$179 from our bake sale and another \$200 from the sale of books and a few other select items from Bart's. Club members from around the state donated almost 200 pounds of non-perishable food items for Laramie Interfaith. The bra and old athletic shoe collections filled numerous big bins to overflowing. We are collaborating with the Cheyenne clubs to continue these collections through May. Looking ahead to May, we will have another live business meeting with a zoom option for those who can't attend. This is the last meeting of the club year and we will have the installation of our new officers. Sue McDonald and Betty Wills have agreed to share the office of 1st Vice President. Also, plans are underway for a celebration on the Ivinson lawn for Thursday June 24th. We will be celebrating our fellowship, ingenuity, and determination that got us through this tough year.

*Adrienne*



### **GFWC Meadowlarks Cheyenne**

President-Barb Robertson

Month in Review-April 2021

Reports from half of the Meadowlarks that attended the State Convention were positive and our very own Meadowlark and GFWC State President Nancy Kaufman did an amazing job.

The Meadowlarks received six 1st Place awards (Leadership, Legislation and Public Policy, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Fundraising and Development, Advocates for Children, and Communications and Public Relations). Our team is very proud of our commitment to the community and volunteerism.

During the month of April, the Larks and XJWC partnered to collect new and gently used bras for the “Free the Girls” campaign. Flo and the two groups collected over 180 bras to be delivered to women in need.

The Larks continue to work on blankets for the Laramie County Youth, as well as providing food for the Little Pantry at Faith United.



The Larks also created a basket for the USI fundraiser “277 Burn Event” at The Garden at Frontier Park-June 11, 2021 from 5:30-9pm. (1210 West

If you are in Cheyenne, please stop by to support this event. Live band, food, drinks, games, booths, and amazing baskets that businesses and groups from around Cheyenne Donated!

Sneak Peek of the Wyoming Basket for the USI 377 Burn

### GFWC X-JWC

Submitted by Katherine Van Dell-President

The club’s May 4 meeting concluded a year of uncertainty as it did for many clubs, organizations, businesses – people’s lives. It was fantastic to see over 30 members of our small club attend in person its last general membership meeting of the 2020-2021 year. We did miss President Kathleen Petersen at this meeting; however, she was enjoying swimming with the turtles in the Galapagos Islands.

Trish Peoples installed the following officers at the meeting: Katherine Van Dell, President; Lucy Russell, 1st Vice President; Karen Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Phyllis Salzburg, Treasurer; Mary Ann Kamla, Secretary; and Cindy Hardesty, Director of Membership. The newly installed officers are eagerly looking forward to the 2021-2022 year.

Ten members of the club attended the April 23-24 GFWC Wyoming State Convention in Laramie. It was fantastic to attend and see club members from around the state. X-JWC received many Certificates of Merit for its work in the Community Service Programs and Advancement areas. Membership certificates were awarded to Iris Trosper, 40 years; Norine Samuelson, 20 years; and Betsy Hartman, Donna Newland and Carolyn Turbiville, 10 years. We mourn the loss in April of our very special 40-year member Iris. She was X-JWC president 1990-91 and served in other club and state offices over the years. She and her husband Clayton with past club presidents Carol Pralle and Betty Kline along with their husbands were responsible for building the X-JWC gazebo in the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.

The club’s Education and Libraries committee’s latest project was delivering goodies to schools to thank the staff for all that they do for the children. We had nine members take goodies to elementary



schools and two take treats to South and East High Schools. We're looking forward to continuing this practice in the 2021-2022 year.

**Cheyenne Civic League**  
**President Linda Stowers**

I hope everyone had a great Mother's Day, I certainly was dismayed to wake up to snow this morning, but we do live in Wyoming. WCLC has elected the following officers: Pam Hendricks, President, Denise Lathrop, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Lucy Pauley, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Meredith Dexter, Recording Secretary, Brenda Hart, Corresponding Secretary and Linda Stowers, Treasurer. These officers will be installed at our final meeting this week.

The Club was able to give 7 scholarships to Seniors this year and we are looking at working with the Cheyenne Botanical Gardens to renovate the WCLC Peace Garden. 25 years ago, the Club provided the funding to build this garden and it is now in need of upgrading. We look forward to this project for next year.

Hope everyone has a great summer and hope to see some of you at Frontier Days this year.

**News from our Chairmen**  
**Education and Library**

**Carolyn Turbiville Chairman**

A degree is a piece of paper, **Real Education** is seen in behavior!

It is time to take a break, and believe me the teachers are saying that. We should be able to do a lot more this coming year for Education and Library, by being able to get into the schools and libraries. You did great this year, let's do more this coming year.

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

Have a great summer!

**Membership Co-Chairs Lynn McLaughlin & Deb McCann**  
*May, 2021*



*A dried sunflower makes a unique, natural birdfeeder.*

**Membership Recruitment**

The following clubs received \$25 for recruiting a minimum of 2 new members in 2020:

Women's Civic League of Cheyenne - 10  
Laramie Woman's Club - 10  
Meadowlarks- 3  
Woman's Club of Rock Springs -2  
XJWC – 2

**Grants**

GFWC grants are available to clubs to assist with recruitment efforts and to Districts to assist with club-building efforts. Designated for each GFWC fiscal year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30, GFWC offers \$50 to clubs for member recruitment programs and \$100 to Districts for club-building programs.

To apply for a membership grant, contact [GFWC@GFWC.org](mailto:GFWC@GFWC.org) or call 202-347-3168 to receive an application. Return the form to GFWC at least 45 days prior to the event. GFWC will award no more than one grant per club or District per GFWC fiscal year.

2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual

**Report Due June 1:**

Recruitment Campaign Form "Celebrating the Victories"  
March, April & May

Please submit to:

GFWC Recruitment Campaign  
1734 N Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2990

Also, please submit to Deb McCann at [debmccann841@gmail.com](mailto:debmccann841@gmail.com).

## **CIVIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

Flo Beville, Chair



May is National Bicycle Month. Maybe your club could collect bikes, get them repaired and distribute to kids in need. There is also a no-profit national organization named Recycle Bicycles who collects bikes and repairs them and donates back to the community. Check if there is an organization in your community or near you.

In Cheyenne a Bike Parade was held to celebrate. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) bought 20 bright orange bikes and rented them to members of the community for \$1 an hour.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, biking enthusiasts participate in the National Bike Challenge which runs from May 1 through Sep 30. For more information for your community go to [Lovetoride.net](http://Lovetoride.net). Also, May 17 to 23 is Bike to Work Week.

There are many activities surrounding Bicycle Month that can be engaged in for your community. Just Google, and *Happy Biking!!*

## **Women's History Resource Center**

Robin Broumley

As we finish this club year and look back on what has been accomplished by Wyoming women this year of the Pandemic, we have made history! Many people covered in their homes the whole year, while GFWC club women managed to be creative and industrious, doing astounding things for others that will alter the direction of many lives in the future! I am so proud to be part of this life-changing group!

Robin Broumley

## ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Phyllis Salzburg, Chairman

May 2021

Improving our environment today includes being aware of, helping reduce and eliminate invasive species. These are plants, animals, and microorganisms that are not native to a particular area. They are capable of causing severe damage in areas outside their normal range, harming the economy, the environment, or human health once established.

Ah the iconic West – the tumbleweed inspired everything from book and film titles, songs, restaurants and business names. Found throughout Wyoming, this romanticized plant is a very prominent invasive species/noxious weed -- the Russian thistle. It arrived in the U.S. in 1873 with Russian immigrants bound for



South Dakota. In the 1890s a botanist sent to investigate the Russian thistle found that in 20

short years over 35,000 continuous square acres were covered. Since introduction tumbleweeds have never stopped spreading; Russian thistle is found in nearly every state in the U.S. It thrives on little precipitation and easily exploits disturbed land stripped of native

species. Today, tumbleweeds are not only an agricultural nuisance and fire hazard, but massive pileups often bury houses, block roads and driveways, and even barricade people inside their homes.

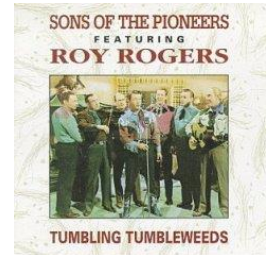
Controlling the thistle includes applying pesticides and mowing down young plants or yanking them out before seeds have a chance to develop, often expensive and time consuming. Scientists have begun testing several biological options, such as killer insects that can take out tumbleweeds naturally and more efficiently. Russian thistle is just one of 30 designated noxious weeds in Wyoming along with six designated.

The PlayCleanGo® Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks® is an outreach campaign “to stop the detrimental impact of invasive species to North America’s lands and waters.” The organization works to raise awareness of how and why thousands of invasive species are spread every year. PlayCleanGo awareness week takes place June 5 – 12, 2021. Visit their website <https://playcleango.org/take-action/playcleango-awareness-week/#toolkit> for a tool kit to help protect the places and spaces we love from invasive species.

So this summer remember these few suggestions for preventing the spread of invasive species in Wyoming:

1. Clean, Drain, and Dry your watercraft and angling equipment to stop aquatic hitchhikers. (zebra mussels)
2. Don’t move firewood! Buy it where you burn it, buy certified heat-treated firewood, or gather on site when permitted. (pine beetle)
3. Never mow a plant (noxious weed)

d) that has already gone to seed. (Russian thistle)



## **Jennie Award**

### **Pam Crochet**

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national award bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence.

This is your opportunity to acknowledge that special member in your club.

Nomination form must be postmarked by 1 June 2021 and can be mailed to Pam Crochet, 200 Talon Court, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

Judging criteria can be found in the GFWC Manual.

Please feel free to call (307-634-6639 or 631-0792) or email ([cpcrochet@hotmail.com](mailto:cpcrochet@hotmail.com)) Pam with questions or concerns.

## **Scholarship**

### **Karen Bard**

#### Scholarship Award

This year we were able to award two scholarships in the value of \$800 each; the Ruth Clare Yonkee and the Mary N Brooks scholarships.

The two amazing women that rose to the top of all the excellent applications were as follows.

#### **Mary N Brooks Scholarship went to Hanna Needles.**

Hanna wants to get a Bachelor's in dance science from the University of Wyoming and then pursue her Master's Degree in dance movement therapy from Naropa University in Bolder Colorado. These degrees will allow her to reach her goal of becoming a dance movement therapist.

Hanna is part of the Elite Travel competitive dance team and is also a teacher's assistant. She is also a member of the Spanish Club, Sources of Strength and National Honor Society. Outside of school she is a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Hanna will receive an Honors Hathaway Scholarship and the middle tier Cowboy Commitment Scholarship at the University of Wyoming. She has also received a \$1485 scholarship from Wyoming State P.E.O. However, what raised her to the top of the selection process was her family circumstances. The financial aid that she has received is admirable, however, it still doesn't cover all of her expenses.

Hanna has an older sister who is dependent on their parents and is living at home. Both sisters have serious medical expenses. Her sister has Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, a chronic autonomic nervous system dysfunction which requires continuous costs for her care. Hanna herself was born with lymphangioma which has caused her to have eight major surgeries. Because of the severity of her condition, her family has had

to travel with her to Pennsylvania to receive her specialized care. As one can conclude, Hanna's family has incurred significant medical expenses.

In spite of the challenges that Hanna and her family have faced, Hanna has excelled academically. More importantly her letters of recommendation highlighted that she has a strong moral compass and sense of ethics. The respect between Hanna and her teachers and administration faculty is mutual. She leads her peers through example and handles situations with a humble maturity.

Hanna has already taken college level courses and has graduated with a weighted Hathaway grade point average of 4.2 and an ACT score of 26, one of the highest academic accomplishments among all of the applicants. Hanna is graduating from Sheridan High School

### **Ruth Clare Yonkee Scholarship went to Aliya Edwards**

Aliya wishes to pursue a degree in Criminal Psychology which will require her to not only obtain her Bachelor's but a Master's and Doctorate as well. Aliya participates in three sports, volleyball, basketball and soccer. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Best Buddies and the R-Club. Through these clubs she places flags on Memorial Day, helped with Senior Olympics, and the St Vincent De Paul food drive. She is involved in 4-H and volunteered at the Pride and Passion Event. She also volunteers at the Carbon County Child Development Program where she works with preschool children. She is currently job shadowing at the Rawlins Police Department. This has allowed her to start exploring the different careers involved in the legal field; police officers, dispatch, victim's advocates and the court system.

In her letters of recommendation one of them had this to say about her; 'On a personal level, I have two little girls of my own that are of a mixed race, something that just isn't that common here in Rawlins, Wyoming. I'm thankful that they have a role model like Ali to look up to that shows them that nothing can hold them back from achieving big things in their lives. Ali has helped pave a positive path for them, and I will be forever grateful for that.'

Aliya has also earned a Hathaway Merit Performance Scholarship and the Cowboy Commitment Scholarship. Again, these scholarships do not come close to covering all of her expenses. In addition, she comes from a single mother family where her father has never been involved or paid child support. Her mother works multiple jobs to make ends meet. The letters of recommendation attribute Aliya's work ethic to her mother's example of doing whatever it takes to ensure that Aliya has what she needs. Aliya works during the summer to assist with expenses but still finds time to do volunteer work and keep up with her grades.

Aliya is graduating from Rawlins High School with a weighted Hathaway grade point average of 4.0, an ACT score of 21 and 12 hours of college credits.

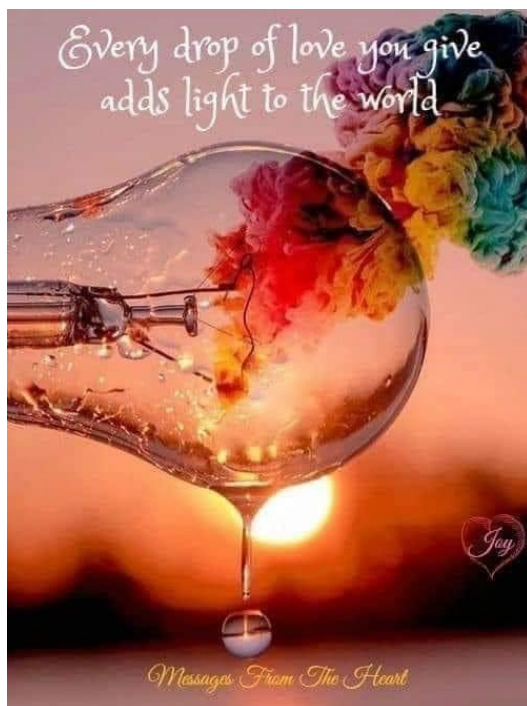
Congratulations to both young women. I have to say that the evaluation was not easy as there were so many very qualified applicants. We had over 45 applicants for the Mary N Brooks Scholarship and 14 applicants from the southeast of the state for the Ruth Clare Yonkee Scholarship.

### **Many Thanks**

Thank you to our committee members, Rita Clark, Mary Alice Bruce, Trish Peoples, Patty Benskin and Sue Ann Shaffer for all the hours it took to read all of the amazing applications.

So enjoyed seeing everyone in Laramie! Remember next News Blast in July. Have a great summer!

Marcia



Follow us on Facebook: [GFWC of Wyoming](#)  
GFWC-Wyoming website: [www.gfwcwyoming.org](http://www.gfwcwyoming.org)

**Marcia Volner, Editor**  
**Phone: 307-389-8388**  
**[mvwycoff@gmail.com](mailto:mvwycoff@gmail.com)**