

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

Hello, my GFWC Wyoming sisters! Our annual meeting was this past weekend, and it was wonderful! Many thanks to the Laramie Woman's Club who hosted a great event. The weekend included the first official meeting of the Past Presidents' Club and reports from 10/11 of our club presidents. It did my heart good to see presidents and clubwomen from throughout the state. GFWC Wyoming hosted four guest speakers from the Wyoming Forestry Service, which resulted in \$160 being donated to the Plant-A-Tree Program to specifically benefit the Medicine Bow/Routt Forest. Did I mention that our tree planting program resulted in more than 1,025 trees being planted? Great job, everyone! Another guest speaker was Leslie Capps, who spoke about empowering women, which gave us a Saturday afternoon boost. Even the mayor of Laramie stopped by to welcome us (we're kind of a big deal).



Annual meeting attendees took a tour of the Wyoming Women's History House and celebrated our 120th Birthday with hors d'oeuvres and cake.

We presented creativity awards in the following program areas: Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, Health & Wellness, Advocacy for Children, Domestic

Violence Awareness and Prevention, Communications & Public Outreach, Fundraising, Leadership, Legislation & Public Policy, Membership, ESO and Women's History and Resource Center.

Clubwomen toured the Laramie Plains Museum, and some stopped to celebrate Arbor Day by posing in front of a gorgeous tree on the museum grounds. You can find our International Guest, GFWC 2nd Vice President Jolie Frankfurth with Flo Beville, Lucy Russell, Trish Peoples, Kristin Riley, Heather Dodson, Mary Lee Dixon and Starla Sexton.



During the annual meeting, we also said farewell to the members we lost in 2023 and celebrated our winners in the Community Impact Program (Women's Club of Sweetwater County), the Jenny Award (Polly Wade from the Laramie Woman's Club) and Writing (Marcia Volner from Women's Club of Sweetwater County—*Do We Make a Difference*). Several clubs participated in GFWC Wyoming's Youth Art Program, and we showcased the talent of young artists throughout the state. We had 43 photography entries and will send winners to GFWC in each category.

Another successful LEADS workshop was held, and business included updating our Endowment and Scholarship bylaws and standing rules. One of my favorite parts of the weekend was adopting the following GFWC Resolution. What an amazing way to wrap up my term!

HIGH PLAINS RESEARCH STATION/ARBORETUM

WHEREAS, The Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station/High Plains Grasslands Research Station was authorized by Congress on March 19, 1928, to experiment and propagate shade, ornamental, fruit and shelterbelt trees, shrubs, vines, and vegetables adapted to local conditions; and
WHEREAS, the facility has contributed significantly to plant preservation, conservation, research, and education, and
WHEREAS, the facility is an important historical site having provided many successful plant introductions, two Civilian Conservation Corps camps, and having structures designed by prominent architect William Dubois, therefore.
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Wyoming urge its member clubs to support:

- **Legislation designating the High Plains Research Station and Arboretum as a Wyoming state historic site.**
- **Legislation protecting and preserving the site.**
- **Education regarding the importance of the site**



But that's not all! We held an Art, Wine & Cheese Event, which included local artists, raffles, a silent auction and merchandise sales. We gathered socks to turn into pet beds, bras to help the survivors of human trafficking and dimes for March of Dimes. Thanks to all of you for financially supporting GFWC Wyoming. I'm happy to say that enough money was made to place \$1,000 into the corpus of the state's Endowment Fund. We really do good work.

After GFWC 2nd Vice President Jolie Frankfurth motivated all of us with her keynote speech on Saturday night, we held elections for the 2024-2026 officers and then another celebration occurred, which included line dancing.

2024-2026 GFWC Wyoming Officers
President Karen Bard
President-elect Karen Kent
Vice President Katherine Van Dell
Secretary Devon Kellerhall (not pictured)
Treasurer Susan Arguello



Yes, I do believe everyone had a great time, and we finished out the 2022-2024 administration with a bang. I can't thank you all enough!

Karen Bard – President elect

Wow! What a Conference. So proud of the Laramie Woman's Club and the job they did. It was fun, interesting speakers, it ran smoothly, food was good to great. Events; Wow Again. The Evening at the Wyoming Women's History House was fantastic, and Jolie really enjoyed it. Thank you to the entire team for making that such a relaxed and elegant event. It was great to have our board members be able to spend time together in that manner. The Art, Wine & Cheese event knocked it out of the park. The artists were happy, our members and public attendees all had very favorable experiences and the Laramie Woman's Club got two new members, and very young members at that. Finally, we made money at the event. So, thank you to everyone who helped put that event on. The donations of wine really made the difference in making the event a financial success. Finally, the banquet was

superb, and I really enjoyed the after party. The team that put the party on really shined. I could go on and on, but I won't. But I will just say that Jolie's talks at mini-LEADS, the Saturday morning session and at the Banquet were excellent and on point. I think they were just what our members needed to hear.

On another note, the new administration is forming. We have appointments to make and positions to fill. Please reach out to me. Consider saying yes. It may be that you co-chair with someone, and that is perfectly fine. Here is a list of positions that I would like you to consider. Even if you just give it a second's thought, please have a conversation with me about it. It may be at the end of that conversation you say no. Or it may be that your concerns are assuaged, and you say yes to serving and continuing your path and growth within the organization. This administration will be focusing on Women's and Children's Issues. It will be looking to educate, engage and empower; yourself, others, people who are in need. I have at times said yes, and at times said no. But I have always been enriched when I have said yes.

Eastern District Liaison, Communications & Public Relations, Fundraising, Arts & Culture, Education & Libraries, Photography/Writing contests, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention, Advocates for Children, and Spiritual Advisor.

Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman

We have come to the close of another club year for many of our clubs. We do, however, have some clubs that are continuing their projects into and throughout the summer months. I will continue to publish this newsletter until ?? I will also continue the calendar so if your clubs are active during the summer months, I'd love to "spotlight" them. There are so many things happening around our state during the summer. If you are traveling, take pictures and send them to me to post. Hope you all have a fun-filled, better weather summer.

What can I say that hasn't already been said about our Annual Meeting. "Hats off" to the Laramie Women's Club for a successful weekend. Although I don't think membership was the primary purpose of the Art, Cheese and Wine Event, The Laramie ladies took advantage of festive atmosphere to showcase the fun, excitement and benefits of belonging to a GFWC club. The Laramie Women's Club signed on 2 young women that attended the event.

I would like to recognize Leslie Jo Gatti as a "red star" recruiter and Marcia Volner as a "gold star" recruiter. My apologies to those ladies, I did not have the stars at the conference. The stars are small dangles to hang on your membership pin. Leslie Jo has recruited 11 new members for her club and Marcia has recruited 28 new members. Congratulations ladies! Keep up the great work!

Marcia Volner - West District Liaison

The District Liaison positions are important as they are able to focus on starting new clubs with the help of our state membership chair in their area of the state. The change of focus has given us a direction and a purpose, and I encourage people in other areas of the state to ask about fulfilling this need in their areas. Please remember I would love to hear from you about your friends in the western area, which currently is a large area, so that I might contact them and ask about joining GFWC. Even if you don't think they might be interested, maybe they know others who might be. It never hurts to ask. I feel that in our current state in our world the more volunteers we have helping others the better off we will all be.

Flo Beville - Scholarship Custodian/Chairman

I just returned the 28th from the Annual Meeting in Laramie. It was productive, it was a lot of fun, (I learned a bit of Line Dancing), and it was good seeing some familiar faces again and meeting new ladies.

I presented our Annual Scholarship Report, and a lot has been happening. We have received 30 applications for the 2024-2025 school year, and we will be awarding three scholarships in \$1200 each. The Scholarships are Mary N. Brooks, Paulena Hays, and Ruth Clare Yonkee. Lots of more information can be found on the GFWCW website.

The Committee will meet May 6th to make the selection of three recipients plus three alternates.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Deb McCann - ESO and Education & Libraries Chairman



Hearty congratulations and compliments to ALL who put together the very successful 2024 GFWCW Annual Meeting.

I want to thank President Trish Peoples for the opportunity to serve as the GFWCW ESO Chairman during her administration. It will forever be an exceptional memory.

ESO at the Annual Meeting

- ★ A request was made to members to bring a children's book for donation to a group to be determined by the Laramie Woman's Club. Members came through with a whopping 70 books!
- ★ The book exchange was a great success. Several books of various genres were donated for the exchange.
- ★ Marianne Gatti was the winner of the book caddy. Proceeds totaled \$70 and were given to the Laramie Woman's Club to be used for an ESO project.
- ★ Drawings for a bag & a book & a shirt (say that three times very quickly) were held and several members went home with some great ESO loot!

Every So Often
...a book comes along.
It might speak your language.
Or sing your song.
It might make you happy.
Or make you sad.
Put a twist in your knickers.
And make you mad.
It might bring you fear.
Or touch your soul.
But one thing for sure, for certain
As for the reader's emotions, the book grabs control

I hope you found an Every So Often book at the GFWCW Annual Meeting!
Happy Reading & Happy Trails

Marcia Volner – President, Women’s Club of Sweetwater County



Four members went to the state conference in Laramie. Susan Arguello was installed as the new state treasurer. The Laramie women did a wonderful job, and the conference was a fun and informative event.

Meanwhile back in Sweetwater County our members were supporting the Power of the Purse at a banquet designed around the Kentucky Derby. The funds raised will go to support a program that gives out bags of food to young people who may otherwise not eat over the weekend and holidays.

We have divided up our money we have from fundraising and will be passing it out in the next few weeks. We will have our own installation on May 21 at 5:30 at White Mountain Mining in Rock Springs. We will join in the county wide clean up by picking up trash on exit 107 on May 9, at 9:00 AM. Please feel free to join us for these events!

Our Fine Arts Center Director was our speaker at our April Meeting. She showed us all the wonderful art selected to go on to the state convention. The art reception for our artists will be May 7, at 4:30 at the Fine Arts Center in Rock Springs. We will present our 5 state winners with their awards from the state and also give our club award to all of our wonderful artists who participated.



The Women’s Club of Sweetwater County received the creativity award for Special Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, for our follow-up on the comfort bags our ladies made for the police department. The police officers carry them in their cars and use these bags when interviewing young people about some very difficult situations. When carried in the cars they are a nice way for an officer to make the young person feel more comfortable talking to the police who may not have been portrayed positively in



their lives and also to give the children a little comfort in a difficult time. When used by the detective who interview’s them later they are a way to help keep the children calm. Fidgets are a good item to include. Our club tries to keep the fidgets limited to ones that are quiet. Having something to fidget with helps with staying calm and concentration. We also include coloring books and crayons or colored pencils. These coloring pages need to be non-fantasy. The detective wants to keep them in the real world so no Disney princesses or ninja turtles. They are okay with stuffed animals and small blankets. These items are put into a nylon lightweight backpack style bag from the dollar store to conserve room for the officers. The officers carry a lot of equipment in their trunks so something that is lightweight and small is better. Hope this helps for those who do comfort bags.

Claudia Wilen – President, WCLC

WCLC is wrapping up its 2023-24 club year. The installation of new officers will take place at our last general membership meeting this month. The new administration will officially call it’s first meeting a week later with a joint board meeting comprised of outgoing and incoming officers and committee chairs. They will receive the new handbooks generated by the outgoing President at that time.

Ten \$1000 scholarships will be presented to area high school students also at the May meeting. These are funded through an allocation from our Christmas House proceeds.

We will be celebrating our new members during our annual Spring Fling on May 15th at the Governor's residence. We use this opportunity not only to get to know our newest members better in a more social setting, but also provide them with an information sharing session to better understand the club and all it has to offer.

This month each of the service project committees will work to spend in kind or donate the remainder of their allotted Christmas House funds to community projects and needs.



WCLC was honored recently at the Cheyenne Arbor Day celebration with the Sponsor of the Year Award from Rooted in Cheyenne, which was made possible through funding from Christmas House. The club will also be providing lunch for 150 volunteers during their tree planting event on May 18th. WCLC members are indeed smarter than the average bear---they know cooking is much easier than digging holes!



Ten WCLC members attended the GFWC-WY state convention in Laramie at the end of April. Election and installation of new officers was held, with our own member Katherine Van Dell elected Vice President after having served 2 terms as state treasurer. A memorial service was conducted by Lucy Russell to honor the 5 GFWC members we lost in 2023, including our own Shirley McLelland, Marietta Dinneen and Gloria Tafoya.



Arp Elementary first grade decorated 35 bags for May baskets which members of Senior Services filled and distributed to the residents of a senior living complex. The Environment committee will once again do their part cleaning up an assigned section of the Cheyenne Greenway on May 11.

Have a wonderful summer!



Deanna Frey – President, Casper Active Service Club

The small but mighty Casper Active Service Club met on April 19. Only three members were available to meet to discuss the upcoming state conference in Laramie. We had a small collection of socks and bras as well as \$60.00 in dimes to send to the conference. We spent our time discussing the donations we made to Meals on Wheels, Central Wyoming Hospice, and the Wyoming Rescue Mission and talked about what we will be doing in the upcoming year. We hope that our snowbirds fly back to us in May so we can begin planning for the upcoming year and continue to build our membership and plan for NIC Fest June 14-16. At NIC Fest more than 70 regional artists showcase their craft for visitors who peruse and purchase art pieces ranging from Wyoming landscapes to modern media. NIC Fest is hosted by the Nicolaysen Art Museum (Casper's largest art museum), and it takes place outside on the museum grounds.

Nancy Kaufman – President, Past Presidents’ Club
New2U Fundraiser

New2U is a consignment store in Laramie that takes new and gently used clothing, shoe, purses, scarves, and jewelry for men or women and sells it to the public. The GFWC Wyoming past President’s Club is the sponsor for this project and Karen Bard, GFWC Wyoming President 2024-2026, has graciously agreed to be the point-person in Laramie. Donated items should be clean and ready to sell. Proceeds will go to the GFWCW Endowment Fund. This will be an ongoing endeavor for at least the next two years. Clubwomen can contact Nancy Kaufman, or any past State President who is in your club, for details of collection/drop-off. So, keep this fundraiser in mind as you begin Spring Cleaning, Winter Purge, or closet organizations! Your “loss” is another’s Fabulous Find!

**Some Fun and Business
in Laramie!!**

