



General Federation of Women's Clubs



W Y O M I N G

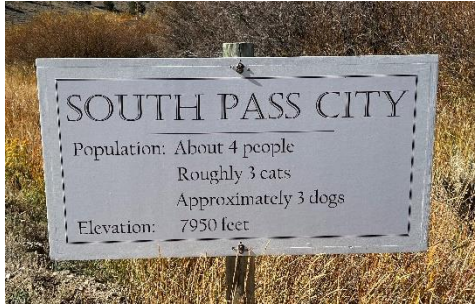
Preserve our Past – Protect our Future Trish Peoples – GFWC Wyoming President

**Newsblast
October 2023**



**GFWC members
Since 1904**

Twenty-eight women attended our Fall Workshop in Riverton this weekend, representing 8 of our 11 clubs. I think we all learned more about GFWC, had some good laughs and enjoyed each other's company. We also donated a whole lot of food to GFWC Fremont County Ladies' chosen food pantries for the GFWC National Day of Service: Christian Food Storehouse and Set Free Church.

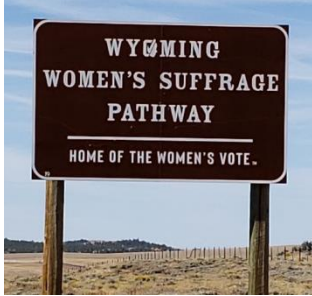


Some of us took in the semi-local scenery as we found our way to South Pass City, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. It was here that Esther Hobart Morris became the first female Justice of the Peace in the United States. As most of you know, Esther's statue now resides in the Wyoming State Capitol, welcoming busloads of schoolchildren and other visitors as they tour our beautiful building.



State Strategic Plan Chairman Mary Lee Dixon inside Esther's cabin and State Scholarship Chairman Flo Beville in front of her cabin.





We also found ourselves on the Wyoming Women's Suffrage Pathway. Please note the checked "O" to signify checking the voting box!

Enjoy the changing foliage this fall, and don't forget to add to the color by planting some more trees!

Karen Bard – President Elect

The fall workshop was amazing. It was fast paced, no time to zone out, well balanced with learning, getting business done and catching up with fellow club women from across the state. It also gave those in attendance the opportunity to welcome and get to know the ladies from our new Fremont County club.

I must also give a 'hats off' to the Leading Ladies. They did a great job of putting a mini LEADS seminar together. All the presentations tied together so nicely. Congratulations Leading Ladies for a job well done.

With fall coming that means spring is going to be here before we know it. Planning for the new administration has already started. The nomination committee is looking for a treasurer and secretary to serve at the state level. Club Presidents, the deadline for nominating someone from your club is November 1st. If you have been a club treasurer in the past, please consider serving as the State Treasurer. It is an easier job than being your club's treasurer. So please contact Nancy Kaufman, the nominating committee chair, to have a conversation about serving. Past Club Secretaries, please give it some thought as well. We don't meet as often, so the job will not be as onerous as serving as your club's secretary either.

Also, I have had the opportunity to speak with each of our current State Department Chairs and there are opportunities there as well. Again, if you have served as your club's department chair in any of the areas and would like to serve at the state level, please get in touch with me. Maybe this is your next step in growth within GFWC-Wyoming. I can't read all our members' minds. There is no way for me to know what you want out of your membership with GFWC without having a simple conversation. Perhaps it isn't this administration, but next. Without a conversation, no one knows but you. This is a wonderful way for you to get a look at how the state operates. If you have thought of serving the state but have been reluctant to make the commitment as an officer, a department chair might just be the place for you. We have a lot of fun and develop deep and lasting friendships.

Send me an email or give me a call and we can discuss your interests and responsibilities. Many of our meetings are via zoom or you can attend via zoom rather than traveling. Please don't let the distance get in the way of you serving if that is what you would like to pursue.

While I am here, this is the opportunity to remind the clubs to nominate a club member to be the LEADS candidate for 2024. I did this two years ago and it was a wonderful

experience. Kristen Riley gave a report of her experience at the fall workshop, and it was a very glowing endorsement of the program. There is financial support for the candidate so make that part of your consideration in taking this leadership development seminar. It will be held in Chicago on the last weekend in June. The State is always looking for, and needs, new leaders, for our clubs and our state. Nothing works well without good leadership. Give it some thought.

Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman

After receiving club rosters for the coming year, I have been saddened by the numerous losses our club have suffered. Unfortunately, we all will have to leave our clubs one day. Whether we pass away (unless you are good buddies with Starla who is not going to let you die) or move away does not necessarily mean we will be totally gone. Now is our opportunity to leave a legacy. Now is our opportunity to be leaders and mentors. The future is always in the hands of the young. If we want our clubs, state and international to continue to do the amazing philanthropic work that we do, we must seek out and appeal to the younger women.

I had a number of “ah ha” moments at our Fall Workshop this weekend. All our clubs do so many things that many potential members are intimidated and feel they don't have the time to do it all. I think we need to ask them directly what they are passionate about and allow them the opportunity to do just that and not expect more. In time I feel that they will become interested in other things take on more responsibility.

I am a strong proponent of setting moderately high expectations for people around me. More often than not they will rise to the challenge. If you add new members to your roster, allow them just enough time to become acclimated then give them a job (make sure it aligns with what they enjoy). This will get them involved and keep them engaged. If they stay involved and engaged, they will continue with your club and hopefully aspire to larger roles within our organization and beyond.

There are so many younger people out there that are looking for a way to serve their community without having to commit to a “lifetime” of “you have to do this” and you can't do that”... Lets go find those ladies!! They will be our legacy.

Katherine VanDell – Treasurer

It's that time of year where the following items need to be accomplished.

GFWC W State Dues: Dues of \$24 per club member are to be sent to Katherine Van Dell, Treasurer, before November 30. Address is 1732 Oxford Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

Dollars for Art Assessment (\$25 donation): These dollars are used to award the students that submit artwork to be judged during the state convention. Hopefully, each club will choose to donate the \$25. Please send any donation to Katherine Van Dell, Treasurer before November 30.

Membership Report: Please send your club's membership listing to the GFWC W State President Trish Peoples; GFWC W Membership Chair/Vice President Karen Kent; and Treasurer Katherine Van Dell. If you have already sent this information to any of us, you do not need to do it again.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (kvandell1732@gmail.com or 307-630-5058). Thank you for all you do

Lucy Russell – Spiritual Advisor

I hope that you are all enjoying the wonderful weather we are having right now. I know that I haven't enjoyed such a great fall for some time.


I wanted to share a story that really touched me and that I heard quite some time ago and felt that this would be a good time to share it. It is a story of a man who is in his 40's and has been diagnosed with ALS. He had purchased a car that he hoped to fix up but then he developed ALS and his life completely changed. He is in a wheelchair now and struggles with talking.

A group of his friends heard about his wish and his disability, and they wanted to help him. This group of men started to get together and to put together a plan, and they started to work on the car. They all had different talents and so they got together after work and on the weekends to help with this project. They received donations for the project and many more people got involved with this. They finished the car and it was ever so beautiful. They surprised the man with a revealing of the car and then they were able to help him into the car and he was able to go for a ride.


This story really touched me because I always think of women doing things for others but to see a group of men get together and do such a wonderful thing was just amazing to me. It also inspired me that we don't always have to do things for groups but that the one is just as important and can be very impactful also. I recommend you drive around and look for ways to serve and just step in to help the one. I love being a member of GFWC and seeing all the ways the different clubs provide service.

Enjoy the season and look for opportunities to volunteer.

Nancy Kaufman - Endowment Fund Chairman



Below is a short history of the GFWC Wyoming Endowment Fund. At this time, the Endowment Committee is respectfully requesting clubs and/or clubwomen consider donating to this vital legacy. All amounts are greatly appreciated. Contributions can be made to GFWC Wyoming Endowment Fund and sent to Nancy Kaufman 1929 Linden Ridge Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524. Thank you in advance for this investment in our future.



In 1904, when GFWC Wyoming was federated, \$1 was collected from each club for operating expenses. Remember, there were over 100 clubs then, all small. By 1916, it was determined that more funding was necessary so the Board of Directors decided that GFWC Wyoming Federation Day, which was February 14th, would be a day to raise money for bolstering the treasury. A year later, in 1917, \$235.10 was raised by Wyoming clubs and club women. It became known as the Valentine Fund.

At the 1921 GFWCW State convention in Greybull the formal Endowment Fund was officially created. The goal was to have a principle of \$10,000 that would remain intact forever and only the interest earned to be withdrawn to defray the expenses of the Federation. No interest was to be withdrawn until the Fund reached \$25,000 and until this time, all interest was to be reverted to the Fund. Mrs. Mattie Noble was the first Custodian. Money was actively solicited to grow the Endowment and incentives were drawn up by establishing contribution levels (some things never change). A donation of \$100 placed you on the Founder's List, \$50 on the Honor Roll, and all smaller donations on the Friendship List.

The \$10,000 goal was reached in 1945. By July 1975, the Endowment Fund was worth \$18,000. Solicitations continued and earnings were transferred to the GFWCW treasury. This continued through the 20th Century until interest rates were so poor the purpose was sort of forgotten because there were no real returns. In 2020, the Endowment was worth more than \$45,000 and GFWCW once again began using interest earned for its operating expenses – specifically to pay for the State-wide insurance liability policy. Today, September 2023, we have just shy of \$50,000 conservatively invested and growing. The Endowment Fund expanded from a sole Custodian managing it to a 3-person committee in 2022. In 2024, the by-laws governing this Fund are scheduled to be updated and revised.

Nancy Kaufman – Nominations Committee Chairman

As you all know, GFWC Wyoming is a vital and thriving organization that keeps our clubs connected to the Western States Region and International organizations. The 2022-2024 Nominating Committee will need to fill a slate of officers for the 2024-2026 Administration where Karen Bard will be Wyoming State President. Officer descriptions can be found in the By-laws on the GFWC Wyoming website. Available Offices will be:

President-Elect – Must be a Past Club President by 7/1/24

Vice President - Must be a Past Club President by 7/1/24

Secretary

Treasurer

Candidates must be nominated in writing by their clubs by November 1, 2023. Please consider current elected officers that may want to serve again in any capacity that they are not term-limited in. Please also consider LEADs Graduates as possibilities since both the clubs and the State have subsidized them. These are NOT mandatory requirements, merely suggestions.

Although the written nomination is not due until November 1, as a courtesy to this committee, if you could let us know of any pending nominations by the Fall Workshop so we know where we must start looking. Again, this is just a request.

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Marianne Gatti – Civic Engagement and Outreach

Happy Fall! As I am sure you have already heard, GFWC is introducing a new National Day of Service for our member clubs to participate in. The concentration this year is Food Insecurity. Fall Workshop participants will be in the inaugural National Day of Service at the meeting in Riverton. I can't wait to read all about what your clubs did to participate!

With Fall already upon us, winter will be here before we know it. Perhaps your club will be holding a coat drive or knitting lap blankets for the veterans. Now is the time to plan your activities that will benefit the community during our harsh Wyoming winter. Don't forget GFWC's Friends-giving initiative as a way to thank those in your community who support our clubs. You can find more information, invitations, flyers, etc. on your GFWC Member Portal.

Linda Stowers - Domestic and Sexual Awareness Program Chairman

Here's the calendar for the year in which you can plan activities in the Domestic and Sexual Awareness Program.

In October some ideas for the month could include providing ribbons at your meeting in Purple or Blue or both to address Domestic Violence Awareness and Bullying Prevention.

Research shows bullying CAN be stopped, but true change requires consistent education and intervention. The Anti-Bullying Alliance have announced the theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2023: Make A Noise About Bullying. "Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a yearly event dedicated to remembering those lost to abuse, advocating for survivors, and networking for change. This national campaign takes place each year in October to connect advocates working to end violence within the home.

- October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month wear **Purple**
National Bullying Prevention Month wear **Blue**
- November: Native American Heritage Month
- January: Human Trafficking Awareness Month wear **Blue**
LGBTQ+ History Month
Stalking Awareness Month wear **Yellow**
- February: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month wear **Orange**
- March: Women's History month
- April: Child Abuse Awareness Month **Blue**
Sexual Assault Awareness Month **Teal**
- May: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Month **Red** hand over mouth
- June: LGBTQ+ Pride Month RAINBOW, Elder Awareness Month **Purple**
- August: Women's Equality Day
- September: National Suicide Awareness Month Purple and **Teal**

Leslie Jo Gatti – Arts and Culture Chairman

Now that school has begun, plays and concerts will be more readily available.

Sign up as a follower on social media for local theater or concert groups. Check to see if they need ushers. Sometimes ushers get to see the performances for free.

Start encouraging young artists now to participate in Youth Arts Month next April.

Encourage your Club to donate to GFWC Wyoming Youth Art so your Club can enter the State's Youth Art competition at next year's convention.

Deb McCann – Education and Libraries Chairman
“Scholarships for Veterans Children”

A selection from the GFWC Education & Libraries
Community Service Top Projects 2022

The GFWC in York County, SC provided four \$1500 scholarships to high school seniors planning to attend college whose parents are serving or have served in the U.S. Military. The club requested and received \$2000 from the GFWC-SC Progress Foundation to supplement our efforts. School counselors were contacted and sent applications for students. A committee of five club members met to decide on the recipients. The criteria were both need and good grades. In addition, an essay about their veteran parent(s) was required and carried great weight in our selections. Scholarship winners were honored at a meeting where they received their framed Progress Foundation/Club scholarship certificates designed by a club member. Parents, friends, and families were invited to attend. A special cake was provided as a refreshment. (GFWC Education & Libraries Newsletter August 2023)

My Weekend is All Booked

Libraries are about Freedom.
Freedom to Read, Freedom of Ideas,
Freedom of Communication.

They are about Education, about Entertainment, about making Safe Spaces, and about
Access to Information.

(ESO BookClub FB)



Deb McCann ESO Chairman

Something to ponder....

*Anyone who has time to clean is not reading nearly enough.

*The great thing about books is there are no commercials.

*Buying a book is not about obtaining a possession...but about securing a
portal.

*The cure to boredom is books. There is no cure for books.

(ESO Book Club FB 2023)



ESO Levels

There are many opportunities for ESO members to work their way up through the ESO levels. Clubwomen move to a new ESO level by completing a set of reading list requirements.

PLEDGE: has obtained an enrollment application and has started to fulfill the reading requirement.

MEMBER: has completed four books from four different categories.

STAR: has completed four books from ten different categories.

TORCH: has completed four books from 16 different categories.

CENTURY: has completed 100 books and she can continue to the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Century Award levels.

DIAMOND: has completed 1,000 books.

(Please see more details in the Epsilon Sigma Omicron Handbook)

**Phyllis Salzburg – Environment Community Service Program
Chairman**

Halloween approaches and inquiring minds want to know.....



*How To Tell a Raven from a Crow? From
Audubon.org*

You're outside, enjoying a sunny fall day when a shadow at your feet causes you to look up. A large, black bird flies over and lands in a nearby tree. You wonder: is that a crow or a raven? These black birds may belong to the same family and look similar in some ways, but several distinctive traits help set them apart.

These two species, Common Ravens and American Crows, overlap widely throughout North America, and they look quite similar. But with a bit of practice, you can tell them apart.

Ravens are larger, the size of a Red-tailed Hawk and often travel in pairs, while crows are seen in larger groups. The crow's tail feathers are basically the same length, so when the bird spreads its tail, it opens like a fan. Ravens, however, have longer middle feathers in their tails, so their tail appears wedge-shaped when open.

Crows give a cawing sound. Ravens produce a lower croaking sound and scream bloody murder. On the ground a raven's strut is often punctuated by a few two-footed hops. So there's the scoop -- now you can figure out what's creating that ominous shadow flying over you!

Download the handy Audubon Bird Guide App to easily compare them—along with more than 800 other North American birds. You can also download BirdNote.org to hear these and other bird calls.

Linda Simpson – Laramie Women's Club President



The Laramie Woman's Club started the new club year with our September meeting. I was honored to present Polly Wade with her special certificate for the Jenny Award from Western Regional Conference. Polly's family and friends were all in attendance and joined us at the luncheon. Annie Nelson did a beautiful presentation, and a notebook of all the information and documents was made available for all to see.

Ina Buckner introduced two new members. We will be holding a new member orientation in October.

Linda Simpson and Rita Clark attended the Meals of Hope food event in Cheyenne for the club's Day of Service activity. It was fantastic meeting so many new people and the entire process of preparing so many meals was amazing.



Lucy Russell – X-JWC President

I am thankful for my board and all that they do to support our club. They are a group of hard-working women. On September 18th some of our members joined in the service project with other GFWC women for the Meals of Hope. We packaged over 10,600 packages in 1 hour and 45 minutes. It was fun and very rewarding, thanks to our members



who helped. We have a lot of things that we will be doing in October. I will share some of what will be going on in our community for our club this next month.

We will be having our General Membership meeting on October 3rd; we would love for anyone to come and check us out. We meet at the Red Lion and our social time is 11 am and our meeting and lunch start at 11:30 a.m. If you ever want to come, please contact me and I will make sure you have a reservation. At our meeting in October, we will be collecting used crayons for a project that Phyllis Salzburg is heading up. We will also hear from Cindy Stockdale from Veterans Rock.

We will be taking part in the Meadowlark Market on October 28th from 9 am to 3 pm. We will be selling baked goodies and some crafts. It will be held at the Blue Federal Credit Union Headquarters on Pershing Blvd. We hope to make money for our CIP project which is K-9's for Mobility. We will also be having another fundraiser on November 9th at the Texas Roadhouse; this is during lunch. If anyone wants tickets, you can contact Karen Kent for those.

At our meeting on Tuesday will be asking our members to endorse Katherine Van Dell for State Vice President. We are off to a good start with our club year, and I look forward to another great year of volunteerism.

Claudia Wilen – WCLC President

Our September general membership meeting welcomed back many of our members plus 3 new ladies who joined over the summer months. Membership is now sitting at approximately 188. While we strive to recruit new members, we are also working hard to promote an environment to retain our long-standing membership.



We started out the month with several members attending the Airport Fountain Restoration ceremony. WCLC was a donor for this project as a result of a Christmas House Grant and we were duly recognized for our contribution.

A number of WCLC members along with several sister clubs in our area participated in the GFWC Day of Service Meals of Hope project. The statistics regarding the level of hunger in Wyoming is staggering so this was truly a meaningful project. It was a sight to behold as the “production lines” packed over 10,000 meals in less than 2 hours—all while grooving to oldies music! Our service committees are off to a good start. Senior Services held their first meeting and learned more about our local Lions Disability Transport Service, a non-profit established late last year to provide transportation to those who are disabled and cannot

access any other forms of transportation. They will be looking for ways to support this effort. The Environment committee once again participated in the city Fall Greenway cleanup project. It's a dirty job, but our ladies do an awesome job perking up a rather unsightly area of town. The ESO Book Club met to review their first book of the year, The Thursday Murder Club and the Arts and Culture committee spent a day touring the local Nelson Museum.



Marcia Volner - Women's Club of Sweetwater County President



It was very nice to get back together at our September General Meeting. We had one new member added to our roles as a guest applied to join. We talked about all of our current projects at this very busy time. We have boxes around the town to collect food for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen which we will deliver on the 28th before I head to Riverton. We voted to donate \$500 to help pay for school lunches for those students in need. We talked about the October 5th evening event we are holding for people who want to learn more about what there is to do outdoors in our wonderful state. We will learn about the program "Women Who Hike" and other state programs. We also gave out 5 grants to 4 students attending Western Wyoming Community College. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.



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GFWC-Wyoming website: www.gfwcwyoming.org

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