

**Wyoming News Blast**

**October 2018**



**Proud GFWC members**

**Since 1904**

### **GFWC Wyoming President's Message - Mary Lee Dixon**



**Be Silly—Be Honest—Be Kind**

Well, it seems we are experiencing fall with a touch of winter with a few snowflakes this week! Ok, I am so not ready for snow just yet! President Elect Nancy Kaufman and I were invited to the GFWC 21st Century Club's tea, October 4 in Newcastle. We were treated like royalty at the home of Nancy Darnell. Club President, Sharon Fridley, conducted the meeting with updates and asked Nancy and me to present the program about the upcoming administration's projects, etc. We brought them up to date on things happening with the state projects and upcoming events around the state such as the GFWC Yoder Women's Club annual Pheasant Hunter's Dinner, GFWC Women's Club of Rock Springs Holiday House and GFWC Women's Civic League of Cheyenne's Christmas House. Nancy also had the finished state fundraiser quilt to display and sell tickets for. The quilt is beautiful!!! Please note we are only selling 300 opportunities to win the quilt between now and the April 2019 Annual Conference. Contact Karen Kent or Nancy Kaufman if you'd like tickets for your club.

We held the fall workshop October 6 in Laramie at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. It was a tremendous meeting venue! A HUGE thank you goes out to the GFWC Laramie Woman's Club and especially, their club President, Annie Nelson! The ladies had things set up and organized for breakfast snacks; coffee and lunch along with lovely door prizes. We covered a lot of information in the hours we met. We outlined job descriptions for the various state program chairmen. There was a great discussion on bylaws and standing rules along with a wonderful skit on an elevator speech and how to compile one. We learn 10 ways to wreck an organization and everyone had the opportunity to sign up for the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Shoes were collected for the Soles 4 Souls initiative. I encouraged club presidents to send in their club events such as fundraisers, to the News Blast as you never know who is traveling throughout the state at any time and may be able to drop in.

Continue your club work on committees and remember to note how many helped, what was accomplished and where the efforts were targeted.

## **Silly calendar days for October (Fair Trade Month)**

Monday, Oct 2 – World Architecture Day (appreciate it)

Thursday, Oct 5 - World teachers Day (thank one)

Saturday Oct 7 – World Card Making Day (make one or better yet, send one)

Tuesday Oct 10 – Mental Health Day (take a break from your hectic schedule)

Tuesday Oct 17 – International Day for Poverty Eradication (find a cause)

Saturday Oct 21 – Apple Day (have one or two)

Monday Oct 23 – Boston Cream Pie Day (how can this be bad?)

Saturday Oct 28 – Make a Difference Day (So many ways to do this big and small!)

As you collect dimes, I encourage you to send in pictures to the news blast editor – Trish Peoples at [tlapples@yahoo.com](mailto:tlapples@yahoo.com) and feature your dimes outlining something fun, quirky, cute, etc. Some photos are included to give you an idea of what we mean.

Club presidents: Please send me 2 copies of you club’s roster/yearbook if you haven’t already. Also, send your club events to our editor for publication in the News Blast.

Have fun! Be Silly! Enjoy your club members.

In Federation,  
Mary Lee Dixon  
GFWC Wyoming President



Picture 1: “It Takes Every Kind of People to Make the World Go Round”  
(Robert Palmer, 1978)

Picture 2: There are many people in Wyoming who give a dime  
Picture 3: Yes, it does turn on a dime.

## What's Happened Lately?

### Fall Workshop in Laramie on October 6, 2018



GFWC X-JWC and GFWC Women's Civic League members enjoy our State Officers' antics.



GFWC Laramie Woman's Club members put on a great workshop!

## What's Happening Next?

Week of October 18-24 -- GFWC Advocates for Children Week

October -- Cancer- National Neighborhoods Month

October 24 -- World Polio Day

November 12 -- World Pneumonia Day

## Club and District News

### GFWC Laramie Woman's Club President Annie Nelson



School Success Liaison Lisa Theis, GFWC Laramie Woman's Club Member Irene Peach, and Laramie Elks Lodge #582 Member Brian Peach

### Organizations Work Together to Benefit Families and Students

Recently, the Laramie Elks Lodge #582 and GFWC Laramie Woman's Club had an opportunity to work together to help the Albany and Saratoga communities. Through a chance encounter with Brian and Irene Peach, members of both organizations, found that Laramie Woman's Club was looking for gently worn shoes because this fall, the numbers of homeless students in Albany County has increased considerably in elementary, middle school and high school. The Elks Lodge have a quick-thinking member who was at K-Mart's recent closing and who had been able to acquire many pairs of brand-new shoes and new clothing. The Elks members were able to donate the shoes and clothes to the School Success program of Albany County. All the other household items were donated to local schools and other organizations to help citizens of Albany County as well as Carbon County. Lisa Theis, School Success Liaison of Albany County; Irene Peach, Laramie Woman's Club member, and Brian Peach, Elks Lodge #582, worked to load a pick-up truck, twice, with shoes and clothes for homeless students and their families of Albany County. Thanks to these two organizations many students and their families will have a warmer winter.

### GFWC Laramie Woman's Club celebrates 120 years

In September 1898 the women of Laramie came together and created a new organization with the aim to bring women together, improve their knowledge and to assist the community. Over the years the Laramie Woman's Club has supported a public library (1905), supported the need for a history museum (1926), they have supported literacy throughout its 120-year history. They not only support major projects such as buying and aiding in the restoration of Ivinson

Mansion (over the years they have donated \$750,000), but they sponsor projects involving women and children caught up in domestic violence and poverty.

More recently LWC has assisted families impacted by the Wade’s Fire, donated books and read at the Touch-A-Truck event, they have assisted the high school program for homeless students, and donated funds to the Snowy Range FFA. But their impact reaches much farther than Laramie or even the Wyoming borders. The LWC has sponsored a family post WWII, donates to Operation Smile and Doctors without Borders and Hurricane Harvey victims in Texas.

Over the past 120 years, the members of this organization have worked continuously to improve the plight of others through charities and projects that are too numerous to count. This celebration of longevity is a testament to the dedication and determination of the women who have been and are members of this group. Many changes have occurred with world wars, economic hardships and political changes and yet the organization has not just survived but thrived. The Laramie Woman’s Club will continue to celebrate this anniversary throughout the year, as well they should.



A few members of LWC in Jan 1907

*Photo Courtesy of S.H. Knight Collection, WU American Heritage Center*



Front row, L-R: Billie Hofferber, Polly Wade, Annie Nelson (Current President)

Back row, L-R: Lynda Hidalgo, Ann Rebka

The organization is open to all women of the community. Meetings are held the second Friday of the month at Alice Hardie Stevens Center at noon. Members bring a dish to share and stay for a short program on a variety of topics. Be a guest for a few meetings and check it out for yourself. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Annie Nelson, 307-761-3145 for more information.

### **GFWC X-JWC President Trish Peoples**

When I sit and reflect for a moment, I am amazed at the women of X-JWC! Already this year, they've volunteered in elementary schools, created "fidget" blankets for seniors, given 1,001 dimes to Mary Lee's March of Dime efforts, donated 37 pairs of shoes for Mary Ellen Brock's Grand Initiative, helped reach a monetary milestone for Canine Companions, and donated money to Family Promise for homeless families. Whew!

We've also planned a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Cheyenne for November 15, 2018. If you're interested, contact me at [tlapples@yahoo.com](mailto:tlapples@yahoo.com). The proceeds go to the Unaccompanied Students Initiative and the Animal Shelter.

### **GFWC Wyoming's West District Liaison Leslie Jo Gatti**

At the Western States Region, I met with Valarie Barnes, the Region Membership Chairman. She gave me the information to help form a new club. That information, along with new club information in the GFWC Wyoming bylaws, will be passed along to interested ladies. I met with Tomacita Becenti from Bridger Valley who is interested in starting a GFWC Club in her area. I will be meeting with her and a group of ladies in the coming weeks about the procedures needed to form a club. Members of the GFWC Rock Springs Woman's Club have been approached by several ladies in the Pinedale area about forming a club there. We have begun to gather addresses. That has been halted until the Roosevelt Fire is out and life returns to normal there. The Rock Springs Club has begun a partnership with the local Boys and Girls Club to try to foster an interest in forming a Juniorette Club. This is a new project with the first outing planned for Highway Cleanup on October 13<sup>th</sup>. I have talked with the President of the GFWC Farson Eden Club. They are planning several fundraisers to buy a sound system or piano for their Community Center. They are also gathering contact information from friends in Pinedale.

## **Notes from the Board**

### **Community Improvement Project Chairman Karen Brannon**

I'm sure that all Wyoming Federated Women's Clubs do many "Community Improvement Projects," but don't take credit for them. So please apply by downloading the application and the instructions from the manual and then by submit it to the committee by March 1, 2020. There are state awards and national awards. Check them out.

## **Children's Advocacy Chairman Karen C. Bard**

### **Advocates for Children Week**

GFWC Advocates for Children Week is quickly approaching. What better way to promote GFWC Advocates for Children Week this year than requesting state and local leaders to declare October 21-27, 2018 as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. I have a Letter of request and Proclamation that can be used by Chapter Presidents to assist in your request for the designation. Please contact me at [kcbard@charter.net](mailto:kcbard@charter.net) if you would like to receive a copy of the Letter and Proclamation to use in your area.

### **Prematurity Awareness Month**

November is the Prematurity Awareness Month and World Prematurity Day is November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to host an event the tool kit is available at [www.marchofdimes.formstack.com/forms/prematurity\\_awareness\\_month\\_toolkit\\_request](http://www.marchofdimes.formstack.com/forms/prematurity_awareness_month_toolkit_request). They held a Webinar on October 4<sup>th</sup>, which I attended, so I am happy to assist anyone with questions if needed. This is a fundraising event through the March of Dimes. Premature birth (prior to 36 weeks) is the largest contributor to infant death. The preterm birth rate has risen for the third year in a row and there are 15 million preterm babies born around the world each year. I hope that your club will consider this a worthy cause and host an event.

However, if you would like to do something simple, perhaps you can get all your members to wear purple to your November meeting. Ask them to double their efforts to put dimes towards the 90,000 dimes request of our state president, or have them pay a penalty, in dimes, if they don't wear **purple**. Do something fun and send me a picture of all the **purple**. Or perhaps you can have **purple** ribbons and pass them out to your members to wear on November 17<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness in the community.

If you don't have a speaker lined up for the month and would like to have a presentation on prematurity to raise awareness then you can contact [mrepik@marchofdimes.org](mailto:mrepik@marchofdimes.org) for your Partner Opportunity. If your Home Life group is knitting baby blankets and such, perhaps we can try and find **purple** yarn in recognition. Again, take a picture and send me the details.

Think about what it is you are doing already and how it can be tweaked for this important day.

### **Let's Paint the Day Purple!**

## **Leadership Chairman Sherri Geringer**

The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.  
*Harvey S. Firestone*

What can you do to build leadership?

- \* Encourage new members to join in activities. Let their fresh ideas help with planning.
- \* Incorporate reports on Federation activities at club meetings to connect with other GFWC clubs.
- \* Take advantage of our diversity. Each individual member brings unique skills to the club.
- \* Mentor new leaders. Support them with suggestions. Encourage participation in all GFWC activities. Travel with them and help with expenses. Give them GFWC resource materials. This is an investment that will pay off!
- \* Share the work. It is easier if members join in planning meetings, participating in projects, or writing reports. *Begin at the beginning...start with committee leadership rather than asking them to jump in at officer levels.*
- \* Be generous in showing your appreciation.

## Membership Chairman Katherine Van Dell

### The Magic of the Dance



Whether dancing by yourself, with that special person, or with a group, you always feel invigorated and exultant. I believe that membership and involvement with a group of women working towards the improvement of their community is like dancing to a great tune. The accomplishments achieved bring happiness to our very being.

Ask the women in your family, friends, neighbors who are not already a member to join our dance. We all will enjoy and benefit in the group “dance.”

Invite former members to attend your next club meeting, ask them to consider returning, seek the answer to their departure and try to resolve whatever caused the departure.

“If you invite people into your home you’re very gracious and accommodating but too many times at meetings that goes away. New members don’t feel welcomed, valued, or interested. Lead by example.” GFWC Western States Region Membership Chairman Valerie Barnes, at the GFWC WSR Conference in Las Vegas, September 14-16, 2018.

### Please mark your calendar with these membership reporting dates:

Fall Recruitment	Sept, Oct, Nov; report due December 1
Winter Mentoring	Dec, Jan, Feb; report due March 1
Spring Recognition	Mar, Apr, May; report due June 1

Send reports to GFWC Recruitment Campaign, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990 and to me, Katherine Van Dell, GFWC Wyoming Membership Chairman, 1732 Oxford Drive, Cheyenne, 82001-1663.

### **Fundraising Chairman Karen Kent**

**State wide raffle.  
Bargello quilt!**

**Approximately 100  
inches square**

**Tickets are \$20  
apiece. Only 300  
tickets sold!**

**Drawing will April  
2019 at the State  
conference in  
Saratoga.**

**Contact Karen at  
[wyokents@msn.com](mailto:wyokents@msn.com)**



### **Home Life Chairman Phyllis Salzburg**

There are so many possibilities for projects and programs in the Home Life area! The possibilities are endless as we like to say. Here are just some ideas and suggestions with resources for more information.

- **October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month.**  
Try the easy pink ribbon approach – give everyone attending your club meeting a pink ribbon to help increase awareness, reminding them to get their mammograms. Provide information at your meeting on early detection and treatment. Encourage everyone to wear pink at your club meeting or monthly club activities. Check with your nearest cancer treatment center to see if there are things your club can do for their patients. Visit the Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative website at [www.wyomingbreastcancer.org](http://www.wyomingbreastcancer.org) for events and other activities your club can support. Check with your county health department or health providers to see if your club can help fund mammograms for those in need.
- One of GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock’s Grand Initiatives is have 1000 projects honoring the **Day of Service for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** in January, answering the question “What are you doing for others?” The projects can be done at

any time, not just in January. How about purchasing and donating bus tokens for those at a homeless shelter or taxi vouchers or gas cards for those in need to use for doctors' appointments, job interviews, getting to work?

- **Red Ribbon Week**, October 23-31, 2018 -- purpose is to promote drug prevention in schools. The 2018 theme is "Life is Your Journey. Travel Drug Free." For ideas, check out their website [redribbon.org](http://redribbon.org).
- **DEA National Drug Take Back Day** is October 27. The DEA website has information on collection locations where unused medications can be dropped off, and other information. Encourage members to clean out their medicine cabinets, get rid of potentially harmful medications. For more information, visit [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)
- The **Wyoming Prescription Drug Abuse Stakeholders**, a volunteer group of community leaders, health professionals and law enforcement, has an excellent video on their website entitled "They Didn't Know" which is directed at young people who may try prescription drugs to get high not knowing of potentially serious consequences. Check it out at [www.wyrxabusestakeholders.com](http://www.wyrxabusestakeholders.com) and share with your members and community. GFWC Wyoming has a resolution encouraging clubs to help education their members and communities on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Use these great resources to create a club project and share the information!

## **Public Relations Chairman Pat Stenback**

### **Club History**

I love fall, but I don't care for the white on the lawn and trees this morning. It would be nice to have a few more fall like days. But it is Wyoming, so I am certain it can change often.

It was so enjoyable to read about the Laramie women and history of their club beginning along with delightful pictures. I hope you will enjoy as well. The Newcastle ladies will be next in November. So please the rest of you send me your history.

### **SSL – Is it important or another set of initials they want me to remember?**

Have you noticed that some websites use "https" but some are still using "http"? The "s" indicates that the website has obtained a Secure Sockets Layer (aka SSL) Certificate. SSL is a technology that provides security for sensitive information as it travels on the internet. It is needed even if your club is not accepting credit card payments thru its website. It helps to insure privacy and protection of the data on your club's website as well as your visitors' information.

When we use the internet our information is passed from computer to computer until we get to the final website we are looking for. Any computer in between can see credit card numbers,

usernames and passwords, and other sensitive information if it is not encrypted with an SSL certificate. This is how much of the identity theft occurs. When an SSL certificate is used, it protects from hackers and identity thieves.

If your club is using its website for conference registrations or fundraising orders, it will be required to have an SSL Certificate to accept credit card information on the website. All credit card processors have announced they are requiring SSL Certificates.

Additionally, many of the search engines such as Google have indicated that websites that are not secure will appear lower in the search results even if a searcher types in the exact website address. Google is also now warning users if they are trying to go to an unsecure website. Most users are not going to risk continuing to a site that has been identified as not secure! Other popular search engines are taking similar action.

To enable SSL on a website, your club will need to get an SSL Certificate that identifies it and install it on its web server. If the club is using a hosted website through a third party such as Tripod or Go Daddy, the SSL Certificate can be obtained through them. With newer websites, it may automatically be provided.

One of the concerns being raised is the cost to obtain the SSL Certificate. We are seeing costs as low as \$20 a year to as much as thousands a year. Every website provider will have its own cost. Can your club simply ignore this? NO. The bottom line - if your club is going to have a meaningful and useful website, it must appear in search results and users can't be frightened away by the lack of security. Every club must make sure it has an SSL Certificate for its website. If you want more information, a very user-friendly article can be found at <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/what-is-ssl>

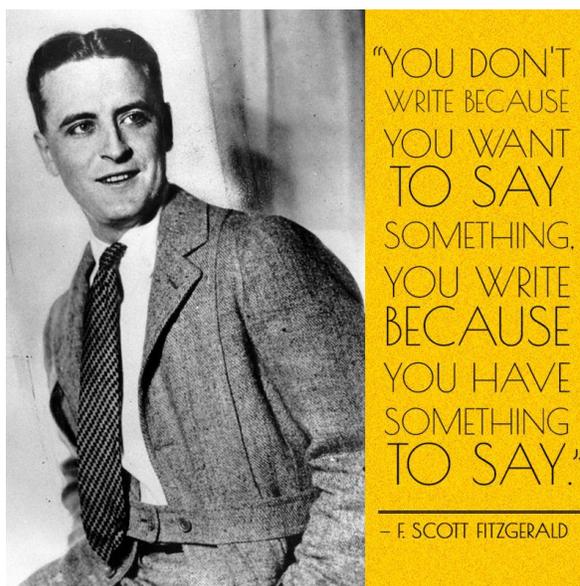
If your club needs more information, please reach out to one of the members of the CPR Committee or the state's Communications and Public Relations Chairman. We are here to help.

## **Writing Contest Chairman Mary Huff**

### **Don't you have something to say?**

Please consider entering a short story or poem in this year's contest.

Information is at [www.gfwcyoming.org/forms.asp](http://www.gfwcyoming.org/forms.asp) under [Writing Contest Registration Form and Contest Rules](#)



### **Seven Grand Initiatives' Tally**

1. Number of trees planted by clubs/members on Arbor Day - 0
2. Number of projects done for Women in the Military - 1
3. Pairs of Shoes donated for Soles 4 Souls - 137
4. Number of Dr. Seuss books donated to city programs or GFWC HQs – 3
5. Number of projects done on MLK day - 0
6. Legislative Action Center signups – 13
7. Million Dollar Club (Capital Campaign – DC)

### **GFWC Wyoming Initiative's Tally**

March of Dimes (90,000 needed for a mile)

We received 1,001 from GFWC-XJWC so we only need 88,999 more! (This total doesn't include dimes received at the fall workshop.)



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

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