

**Wyoming News Blast**

**October 2019**



**Proud GFWC members**

**Since 1904**

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



**Be Silly—Be Honest—Be Kind**

Thank you to all the ladies who made time to attend the Fall Workshop in Yoder. We covered a LOT of information, updated the clubs on future changes with the next administration, had a few laughs and were treated to a delicious lunch from the Yoder Women's Club. Chairmen gave reports on last year's submittals and were given website information from Nancy Kaufman, Dean of Chairman, about the 10 top projects submitted to GFWC last year for further ideas.

At WSR 2019 in Boise, every state was challenged to do a cheer or skit or something in honor of Mary Ellen's Seven Grand Initiatives. Well, GFWC X-JWC's own Trish Peoples came up with a winning skit based on Mary Poppins songs. GFWC-Wyoming and GFWC-Nevada were both winners in the competition and will present our skits/songs at the International Convention in Atlanta next June. Here's a photo of the trophy we won filled with dimes in this news blast!

I want to remind all the Club Presidents that my executive board and I are always available to come meet your clubwomen at any event or meeting. We love to travel around the state and would like to visit with you, meet your members and see what you are doing in your community. The updated directory is on the GFWC-W website so you can always e-mail or call us.

This is a continuing reminder: Please consider using the GFWC.org website as yet another avenue of social media in getting news out about your club or simply a program project. Go to the website and click on "News and Publications" to read the blog about other clubs' activities. Additionally, post your news about projects being done. The clubwoman cannot print all the great stories about projects, etc and this is another means of getting ideas out there for other clubs to use along with some publicity for



your club's participation in your community. Items for the Blog can be sent to [cdeguzman@gfwc.org](mailto:cdeguzman@gfwc.org).

My President's projects are continuing, so please use the fundraiser ideas included in the Newsblast, as well as your own, to support these initiatives. As a reminder they are:

Collect a mile of dimes for the March of Dimes  
Donate funds to the Raising Readers program  
Be kind to your fellow club members

As always, keep track of your donations for your yearly report!

Have fun! Be Silly! Be Kind!!  
In Federation,  
Mary Lee Dixon  
GFWC-W President

### **Quirky Fundraising Idea**

Guess how many candy corn are in a jar (cup, pint or quart) for October's fundraiser!

\$1/guess – put money towards March of Dimes collection

### **October (Operation Fitness)**

Thursday, Oct 3 – World Smile Day (pass one on)

Monday, Oct 7 – World Animal Day (visit your local shelter)

Monday, Oct 14 – Face Your Fears Day (public speaking, eating Brussel sprouts...)

Wednesday, Oct 16 – Conflict Resolution Day (learn ways to handle this)

Friday, Oct 18 – Cat Day (A special day for all you cat lovers!)

Sunday, Oct 27 – Navy Day (thank you to all our sailors!)

### **GFWC West District Liaison Leslie Jo Gatti**

After a few hours' delay in Laramie, Marcia Volner & I arrived at the Fall Workshop in Yoder in a "loner" car to represent the West District. It was a wonderful workshop. More members should plan on attending next year.

Both West District Clubs are busy with Fall activities. I am working on sending letters to the editors of newspapers in western Wyoming, to let people know about GFWC. I will let you know what kind of responses I get. If anyone has friends living on this side of the State, either contact them or give me their contact information. You never know who may be looking for an outlet for their creativity!

## Club News

### Laramie Woman's Club President Adrienne Polis

This summer two long-time members of the Laramie Woman's Club passed away and we wanted to honor the memory of Matilda Hansen and Stevi Patterson. Stevi, a past president of the LWC had been one of the original 'tea ladies' at the Iverson Mansion Museum so we felt it would be appropriate to dedicate a tea to these two talented women. The Laramie Woman's Club, Mary Mountain, director of the Laramie Plains Museum and the Iverson 'tea ladies' created a special tea on Friday October 4th. The provided sweets and savories for the refreshments and created beautiful floral centerpieces for the tables and display areas. Mary created a unique and lovely



invitation for the tea and focused on finding photos of camera shy Stevi. Adrienne Polis, focused on contacting friends and family members about the tea, and collected photos of Matilda, a former Wyoming state legislator. Several of the books Matilda authored were on display. At the tea friends and family members shared memories about these special women. Attending were Bob Patterson, Stevi's son, Clair Brooks, Stevi's sister, Doug Michener, Matilda's son, and Alice Schaffer, Matilda's sister-in-law. There were thirty-two people present at the tea including twenty LWC club members. This was a labor of love for LWC and the 'tea ladies'. Thanks to everyone who helped put the event together within our short timeline. Special thanks to Killian's and Billie Hofferber for providing flowers to put in the centerpieces.

### GFWC Yoder Woman's Club President Bev Yeik

Our Annual Fall Pheasant Hunters' Dinner will be held the first weekend in November (2 and 3) at the Yoder Community Building. Coffee and Pie starts at 8:00 am, with lunch served from 11:00 to 1:00. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy our dinners. The Yoder Woman's Club has been serving the dinners since 1952.

Saturday – Chili, Hamburgers, Salads, Pies

Sunday – Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes,  
Green Bean Salad, Rolls and (of course) Pies!





## GFWC Meadowlarks President Flo Beville

The Meadowlarks enjoyed one of many to come social events in October, which was lunch at the Metropolitan. They were joined by a couple of guests who are looking at joining the club. Future social events are being planned, as well as fundraisers. For more information, contact Flo Beville at [robi53@msn.com](mailto:robi53@msn.com) or at cell phone 421-3011. Have a great Fall!



## GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Springs President Marcia Volner

We have hit the ground running this Fall. We are excited to have our 30th holiday house in place for December 6&7. We have ordered a protective vest for one of the police dogs in Rock Springs and will be working on raising funds for another one. We had a booth at a My Life event in September here and signed up some more interested ladies. Our garden section raised money to buy a beehive for heifer international. The local museum has cataloged all of the boxes of information we have given them on our club and will be putting up a display that runs October through December as a part of honoring women. Hope you can stop in and see it if you are in town!

## GFWC X-JWC President Trish Peoples

Our X-JWC Cheyenne club has a beautiful quilt for raffle to support our CIP choices: the Animal Shelter and the Unaccompanied Students Initiative. It is very brightly colored with a white background. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The quilt is 43" by 53". A hanger sleeve has been put on the back so it can be used as a hanging or a quilt. For tickets, contact Bev, [bevrogercampbell@gmail.com](mailto:bevrogercampbell@gmail.com) or Trish, [tlapples@yahoo.com](mailto:tlapples@yahoo.com).



X-JWC clubwomen cut and tied fleece for blankets for the Highway Patrol at the October General Membership meeting. The club decided to periodically extend our meeting times to incorporate Community Service projects. This fleece-tying was our first venture, and it was a huge success!

**Update:** Last year XJWC wrote a grant for \$200 from GFWC International. We received the grant and X-JWC matched \$200 for a total of \$400. We had volunteers in 5 schools, so each



school received \$80 to spend on books. The Alta Vista Librarian used the money to buy books written by a local author and former newspaper reporter. She invited the author to speak at Alta Vista. At the time, Scholastic News (a national school newspaper) was looking for students to provide articles. A student was selected from Alta Vista! The student was inspired by the local author/reporter and the books that XJWC purchased to apply for the job!

## News from our Chairmen

### Rating Guide State Chairman, Bev Campbell

The Rating Guide (attached) has had a few changes made for this 2019-2020 reporting period. They are highlighted in red for your convenience. I have emailed the revised form to all the 2019-2020 Presidents. If you did not receive it, please let me know.

The rating guide is the one form that should be kept close to your calendar as a reminder when items are due to be reported to the State GFWC. The guide also provides information related to what it is that you need to track throughout the year. It would be helpful if the club President provides the form to the officers and chairmen in your club so they are aware of the dates that items are due and what it is that they need to submit to the President. If you have any questions you can contact me at 307-634-4483 or [bevrogercampbell@gmail.com](mailto:bevrogercampbell@gmail.com). I hope you all have a fun and productive year.

### Writing Chairman Edna Larsen



*Gertrude vowed to stay at her computer until she had written all 1,000 articles in her writing plan.*

Writing submissions are due to Edna at 1108 10th Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901 by February 2, 2020

What are the rules?

- Dues paying members of active GFWC club may enter
- Typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only, minimum margins of one-inch on all four sides, on 8.5x11 inch paper
- Written during contest year Jan 1-Dec 31 2019
- Entries must have the following on the top right-hand corner of each page:
  - Author's name, email, mailing address, phone number
  - Name of author's GFWC club and state federation
  - Category (Short Story or Poetry)
  - Title of work
- Authors must be amateurs; earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually
- Entries must not have been published prior to the competition and must be original works by the author

- A signed **GFWC Creative Arts Waiver** must be included with each submission
- Short stories are limited to 2,000 words
- Poetry entries can be any style with a minimum length of 8 lines and a maximum of 50
- One entry per member per category

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

One club made washable pillows for patients in extended care of the local hospital. One club made "Wind Bonnets." Other clubs did garage sales to help people in need.

### **Membership Chairman Katherine Van Dell**



#### **Benefits of Belonging to GFWC - “Living the Volunteer Spirit”**

Membership in GFWC is first and foremost about volunteerism. In all 50 states and more than 15 countries, our members work together to create global change. GFWC clubwomen are mothers, wives, daughters, doctors, teachers, and community leaders who are dedicated to enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

The greatest benefit of membership is being part of a world-wide volunteer movement of women working to better the lives of countless men, women, and children all over the world. The collective impact of GFWC clubwomen working together to assist those in need demonstrates the true power of Federation.

#### **Club Rewards**

- GFWC Manual, Resolutions and Bylaws
- Partner with nationally-recognized community service projects:
 

Prevent Child Abuse America	March of Dimes
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital	Easter Seals
Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership	Heifer International
Canine Companions for Independence	Operation Smile
Shot@Life	US Fund for UNICEF
USO	
- Group Tax Exempt Status and Access to Liability Coverage
- Professional Assistance with Club History Projects – Through our Women’s History & Resource Center
- Eligibility for GFWC Awards, Contests and Grants
- LEADS training and GFWC Mentors
- Endorsed Fundraisers – Terri Lynn
- GFWC Marketplace

The most significant benefit of belonging to GFWC is the support, encouragement, comfort, enthusiasm, creativity, and friendship shared by members from all walks of life, with varied perspectives, diverse backgrounds and different experiences.



## **Fundraising Chairmen Flo Beville and Karen Kent**

Contact Flo at [robi53@msn.com](mailto:robi53@msn.com) or Karen Kent at [wyokents@msn.com](mailto:wyokents@msn.com) for tickets for this cozy cabinet!

\$5 or 5 for \$20

Proceeds go to GFWC-Wyoming

## **Communications and Public Relations Chairman Pat Stenback Unconscious Bias Article from the GFWC International Newsletter**

Unconscious Bias seems like a strange topic for the Communications and Public Relations Committee to be concerned about. However, each of us has bias and it puts a shadow over our communications.

For example, suppose I have a bias against people who dye their hair green. If I am in a club meeting and a potential member arrives with hair dyed green how am I likely to react to her? Will I eagerly go over and welcome her offering to have her join me and sit together? Will I sidle to another part of the room to avoid engaging with her? The bias impacts how I deal with her. She may be a great person who is really interested in the club's activities. She may have great ideas on how to fundraise and get new members. I will never know because my bias prevents me from learning about her and her interests.

Green hair is a "comfortable" bias to talk about. We laugh because it seems so absurd. Many persons react in similar manners to persons of a different skin color, with visible tattoos, piercings, religious choices. Your bias seems "ok" to you. The real question is whether the bias is "ok" or is it not as rational as you think.

Bias is normal and, in some cases, can protect us from danger. We make a snap decision not to cross the swollen street with our car or not to approach the person holding a knife. Unfortunately, bias can also interfere with our ability to interact with and appreciate others.

Many biases are cultural or familial. We learn from those who raised us or who are around us. It is part of our daily life so it seems "reasonable". One study on bias asked participants to label certain groups to indicate whether it was "always ok, sometimes ok, or never ok" to have negative thoughts about groups of people. Some were obvious like "rapists" but others were not, like farmers, male nurses, students who don't study, or men who stay home to raise children." Yes, some people felt it was ok to always have negative thoughts about these groups.

We all need to take a step back and try to be self-aware in our dealings with others. The first step is to admit that you have biases. Then ask yourself "how are those biases impacting my interactions with others?" Are you being fair to the person? Once you recognize that you are not being fair, try to learn more about what is causing your reaction. For example, in the above example try to learn why some people choose to dye their hair green. Maybe it is in memory of

someone who dies whose favorite color is green and the funeral was yesterday. Maybe it is support of their high school soccer team. As you learn you become more comfortable.

Do not be afraid to talk about bias with others. We are all members of the bias club and can bring unique perspectives to the conversation. However, you have to be willing to really listen when others speak and not just disregard their perspective because it differs from yours.

Lastly, do not be afraid to go to someone and let them know that you feel they have been treated unfairly. As my mother said from the time I was born - Honesty is ALWAYS the best policy.

**Ruth Clare Yonkee Johnson**  
**Submitted by Phyllis Salzburg**

Ruth Clare Yonkee Johnson passed away September 22, 2019 in Thermopolis, Wyoming. After serving as president of the Thermopolis Woman's Clubs, she was president of what was then the Wyoming Federation of Women's Clubs from 1976 – 1978. Her theme was "Act – Vitalize Your Dreams."

Ruth Clare Menger was born in 1922, attended school in Hot Springs County, Wyoming, becoming Valedictorian of her class in 1940. In 7th grade she decided she would become an attorney. She attended college at Mills College in Oakland, California but that ended when the city underwent a blackout as there were reported Japanese subs in the harbor!

She transferred to the University of Wyoming, finished the required pre-law education, and took a year of classes in law school. She married Lyman B. Yonkee in 1943 and they had three children. She and her husband taught school in Shoshoni while he studied for the Bar Exam. Ruth Clare later decided it would be best for her to become an active lawyer so she studied in a law office for the necessary years, took the Bar Exam, and was admitted to the Wyoming State Bar in February 1953.

Over the years she had a very active legal career, appearing before the Wyoming Supreme Court twice, served on countless boards, commissions, and in elected offices, and made community service one of her foremost priorities serving as a volunteer and in many leadership positions. She was so admired by Thermopolis resident Paulina Hayes that Paulina left the bulk of her estate to the Wyoming Federation when she died. GFWC-Wyoming established the Paulina Hays Education Fund from this wonderful donation.

Ruth Clare Johnson left a special legacy of volunteer service to Wyoming. We are forever indebted to her for this and the GFWC Wyoming Ruth Clare Yonkee District Scholarship.



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