



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

**Newsblast  
September 2023**



**GFWC members  
Since 1904**

As we start another club year, I am so thankful for my GFWC sisters and the work you do for our communities. I can't wait to see what you accomplish this year.

Preserve our Past--Some of the clubs have updated their histories and put in place a mechanism to keep them updated annually. Great job! Let's all get there in 2023.

Protect our Future--GFWC Wyoming planted 439 trees in 2022, which was 10 times my goal. Let's keep going!



Eleven Wyoming participants attended the Western States Region Conference in Redmond, Oregon, 23-27 August. GFWC Wyoming President-elect Karen Bard and Vice President Karen Kent got into the spirit of "Home on the Range," when the entire Wyoming contingent sang it as part of my President's report. The feedback from the audience was all positive as they joined in. At the GFWC International level, Patty Benskin reported on Advocates for Children and Nancy Kaufman on Communications and Public Relations.

**Upcoming events**

- September 9 – This is the date I need to have the number of Fall Workshop attendees to Bunk's BBQ – so email me if you want to get lunch!
- September 22, 10:00 – Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
- September 29, 4:00 – Board Meeting at Riverton Library
- September 30, 10:00 – Fall Workshop at Riverton Library
- September 30 – GFWC International Day of Service

**Karen Bard - President Elect**

I had a wonderful time going to the WSR Conference in Oregon with many laughs, great speakers, and skits put on by GFWC committee members. Much attention was given to

membership and how to build our brand. Some clubs are struggling, and a few were reported as disbanded or getting ready to. We are very proud here in Wyoming to show membership growth and the creation of new clubs like our Fremont County Ladies. The fall workshop is being held in Riverton in celebration of this new club and I am hoping



that many of you will be there. Everyone from Wyoming was so proud when Laramie Woman's Club member Polly Wade was selected as one of the two winners for the Jennie June Award from the Western Region. New members may not know, but this is the only award sponsored by the GFWC that goes to an individual for her lifetime service to her community. Polly has been a member of the LWC for over 45 years and was instrumental in all the work the club did supporting the Laramie Plains Museum. She volunteered for the club long before she became a member. She also worked

tirelessly supporting youth hockey in the community. There were also various other clubs and needs throughout the community that she assisted over the years as well. The recognition is well deserved. This is the very first Jennie nomination in the 125 years of the Laramie Woman's Club. We wish her well at the International Conference in Chicago in June of 2024.

Important news as the club year starts is that all clubs should be thinking about their end of year reports. Yes, now is a good time, especially for those who were responsible for projects in the first half of the calendar year and now have other responsibilities. Get those reports written and to your Presidents as soon as you can. One thing I would like to request is that everyone put a little more thought into the "why" of your project. Many of our clubs have projects they do every year. You put in your report "because we always do it". Please give some thought to this. You do it because, for example; "The elementary school needs support for reading. Their first grade reading comprehension scores have dropped and we provide support through our annual fundraiser by ....." or "This year we did our usual Bunco Party but we voted to support the Downtown Clinic because they have reported a 150% increase in need this year." This information will help our state department chairs tremendously, when they go to do their jobs in writing their reports to national. If you are responsible for writing a report on a project, please start now and put a little more thought into your answers for why you do the wonderful things you do in your communities.



In closing I wish to share a highlight of my travels to Oregon. It was such a surprise. In the Humboldt Redwoods State Park, there is a California GFWC Grove. That was impressive in and of itself, but when we visited the grove, it was so much more than that. There was a 4-sided hearthstone and a water faucet there making the grove, located by the river, a very peaceful place. The story is that in the early 1900's the effort began to save that ancient grove and after two decades of work the women's clubs of California banded together to make it happen.



Their motto was 'strength united is stronger' and they raised \$45,000 from 60,000

individual members. In 1933 they gathered there to celebrate their dedication to conservation. The Federation Hearthstone, pictured here, was designed by the renowned architect Julia Morgan (1872-1957) who much like our founder had to work hard to achieve elevation beyond her gender in this male dominated profession. The design of the fireplace embodied her desire to build in harmony with nature. For many, a fireplace evokes thoughts of home and family, symbolizing a touch of domestic warmth in the wilderness. This four-sided hearthstone, or fireplace, stands as a monument to preservation.



### **Karen Kent – Vice President/Membership Chairman**

As I told you all last month, I will continue as Newsblast editor until the end of Trish's term of office. I appreciate all your compliments, suggestions and encouraging words. Wyoming has an amazing newsletter thanks to your concise and informative articles. It is so much fun to add the pictures that you include. XJWC added a new member to their roster because this woman saw our newsletter and calendar. She attended XJWC's summer picnic and decided to join. Keep those cards and letters coming!

As most of our clubs begin their new club year, we should all be thinking "growth," as in growth for the state, individual clubs, and personal growth. Everything we do individually affects our clubs, which in turn affects our state. Invite a friend to an event, reach out to relatives or ask me to reach out. It does not matter if they live in a town with an established club. I have added a couple of individuals who are interested in our organization to our Newsletter emails. While you are planning events for your committees, consider the opportunity to make them membership activities as well. Fundraising events are premier opportunities to get someone interested. Utilize them!

### **Flo Beville – Scholarship Chairman**

For Scholarship - Mary N. Brooks and Ruth Clare Yonkee, we received about 30 applications. The scholarship committee (Phyllis Salzburg, Mary Lee Dixon, Karen Bard and I) met in May to review and vote on the applications. Unfortunately, we only had two scholarships to award. We sent letters to those not accepted and to the two who were. Each scholarship was \$1,000. I was amazed at the high caliber of high school applicants. These kids are amazing.





The first week of August I sent the first \$500 of each scholarship to the applicants' respective school. The final checks will go out in January. In the meantime, I hope to be busy collecting checks from the clubs for the scholarship program. They are due by Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. You can send them directly to me at Flo Beville, 3689 Campstool Rd., Cheyenne WY 82007.

In July a combination of the Scholarship Committee and Bylaws Committee met to start the review of the scholarship applications, informational sheets, evaluation process, districts, and, of course, Bylaws and Standing Rules to accommodate any changes. Our next meeting is in September. Any questions, give me a ring at 307-421-3011. Thanks.

### **Environment Community Service Program - Phyllis Salzburg, Chairman**



The 2023 Honorable Mention Club Creativity Award in the Environment Community Service Program went to a North Carolina club that supported **The Crayon Initiative**, a non-profit that collects unwanted crayons, melts them down and remanufactures them for art programs at children's hospitals across the country. The Crayon Initiative helps reduce waste heading to landfills by recycling old crayons and brightens the lives of young patients during their hospital stay. The club distributed special collection boxes in their community to places such as schools, day cares, restaurants and had help collecting from scout groups and others. Over seven months, 315 pounds of used crayons were collected and shipped to Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative website gives lots of great information on the organization and how to participate. Sounds like a fun project for Wyoming clubwomen! <https://thecrayoninitiative.org/give-crayons/>



### **Marianne Gatti - Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman**

As summer comes to an end and our clubs begin to meet again, what areas of service are you concentrating on? Do you already have a calendar of events for the club year? Are you taking ideas you have heard about over the summer to your meetings as proposals? Has a new administration charged your areas of concentration, or do you hold true to your longtime projects? Please let me know what your clubs are doing to be of service in your community.

GFWC is introducing a new National Day of Service for our member clubs to participate in. The concentration this year is Food Insecurity. The Sweetwater County Club is collecting for the local soup kitchen. Fall Workshop participants will be in the inaugural National Day of Service at the meeting in Riverton.



### ***What is GFWC National Day of Service?***

The **National Day of Service** (NDS) is a day in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address it, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs will participate by organizing Community Service Programs (CSP) in their communities as part of NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate and introduce them to GFWC.

### ***How can you help solve food insecurity in the United States?***

To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends.

### ***Who should you invite to participate?***

Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend(s) to join GFWC. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

### **Ideas for NDS Activities:**

- Volunteer at a Local Food Bank
- Food Drives: Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.
- Raise Awareness About Hunger: Reach out to your local media to introduce NDS and the cause being promoted. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.
- Advocate to End Food Insecurity: Use GFWC's Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to the issue.

### ***NDS Information & Updates:***

Every week until September 30, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss food insecurity. Check out the weekly newsletter, *GFWC News & Notes*; Facebook and Instagram; and website, [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).

### ***For More Information About Food Insecurity:***

- *US Department of Agriculture* – <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>
- *Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion* – <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>
- *National Public Radio, Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers* – <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>

**To Register:**

Please contact Melanie Gisler, Director of Membership Services, at [MGisler@GFWC.org](mailto:MGisler@GFWC.org); and, copy Deb Strahanoski, International President, at [DStrahanoski@GFWC.org](mailto:DStrahanoski@GFWC.org) to register. Be sure to include the following in your email: Club Name, Point of Contact, Address, Phone Number, and Email.



ESO, Deb McCann, Chair



**Read All About It: New ESO Participant**

Rochelle “Shelley” Toll, Women’s Civic League of Cheyenne

*We want to recognize Shelley, our most recent ESO member!*

*What is Shelley reading now? [The Perfect Marriage](#) by Jeneva Rose*

*Welcome, Shelley! Happy Reading!*

If there are other members who have recently signed on, please email the name of the member and the club for inclusion in the Newsblast!  
If you too would like to participate in the ESO reading program just for GFWC members, please email [debmcann841@gmail.com](mailto:debmcann841@gmail.com) for further details.

August 2023 Book Releases as listed in the GFWC 2022-2024  
Education & Libraries Newsletter



*The Connellys of County Down* by Tracey Lange

*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

*GoodBad Girl* by Alice Feeney

*Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim

*After That Night* by Karin Slaughter

*Canary Girls* by Jennifer Chiaverini

Some girls dream of a big walk-in closet in their bedroom.

I'd prefer a walk-in library in mine.

(GFWC ESO Book Club, FB)

Go to GFWC ESO Book Club on Facebook and request to join!

It's available to all GFWC members.





*GFWC Education & Libraries, Deb McCann*

**International Literacy Day, September 8, 2023**

The aim of this day is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies and to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. Despite steady progress made across the world, literacy challenges persist with at least 763 million young people and adults lacking basic literacy skills (2020 data).

**Take the time this International Literacy Day  
to visit your local library and browse its selections.**

*(GFWC Education & Libraries Newsletter August 2023)*



***“Trunk or Treat”***

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

The GFWC Curwensville Woman’s Club (PA) participated in the Trunk or Treat project hosted by the Curwensville Area School District. The club purchased more than 250 new books from Scholastic, as well as some candy. Volunteers gave out traditional Halloween candy but also literacy “treats” as every child received books, bookmarks, a new pencil, finger puppets, and a packet of Halloween reading and writing activities. Working with their community partners, nearly 1,000 children and their families walked away with new books and literacy tools to help support reading in their homes.

*(GFWC Education & Libraries Newsletter August 2023)*

*Read more about this top project and others at [GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org). or the  
GFWC Education and Libraries Newsletter*

**&**

Be looking for the GFWC Education & Libraries Newsletter coming to your club soon!

**&**

*Go to GFWC ESO Book Club on Facebook and request to join!*



### **Marcia Volner - Women's Club of Sweetwater County President**

We are now looking ahead to September and our project for helping end food insecurity. We have arranged to have collection boxes with explanatory signs on them put in 6 different locations. These boxes will be for donations to our local Soup Kitchen which provides meals as well as giving out food to take home. We are requesting non-perishable foods, foods and spices for cooking meals, dish soap and Clorox. These collection boxes will be out until the end of September when the items will be delivered to the soup kitchen. Some will go to the collection at the State Workshop in Riverton on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to getting back together in September at our general meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The board members will provide a potluck luncheon and the community will be invited.

We also participated in the local Alzheimer's Walk.



### **Claudia Wilen - WCLC President**

The Women's Civic League of Cheyenne is gearing up for the club year 2023-24 beginning in September. While we haven't been busy over the summer with club projects, there's been a lot going on behind the scenes as new officers and committee chairs have been acquainting themselves with the scope and duties of their positions. The President has determined all officer and chair handbooks will be updated and made available in electronic format by the end of her term in May. Deb McCann, our Membership chair, is also working to move our membership information from paper to on-line availability as well as updating the membership tab on the club website. Our goal is to move as much as possible, including bylaws, to our website. This will allow easier access and editing as needed for future updating as well as loss of information. Our Treasurer, Deb Fairchild, has been working on a proposed budget for the coming year and Pat Stenback, Yearbook chair, spent most of the summer preparing all our club information to be printed in the member yearbook.

It hasn't all been "toil and trouble"! The summer months have been busy with a host of workshops already for our Christmas House fundraiser in December. Room chairs have been hard at work coming up with so many crafty ideas...and plenty of projects for members to help with either at home or gathered for a day of work as well as fun.

### **Deanna Frey - Casper Active Service Club President**

The Casper club spent the end of July and early August preparing to host the Open House for the Unaccompanied Students Initiative's (USI) new home in Mills, Wyoming. A grant was written to the First Interstate Bank to request funding for this event. Happily, the bank responded favorably and provided \$250.00 to purchase decorations, ingredients for the youth to bake cookies, tablecloths, and





napkins. The local Pepsi distributor provided water and another friend of USI baked a few dozen special treats.



In preparation for the event three members of our club worked with two young women to bake approximately seven dozen cookies. We had a great time with the two 17-year-olds who had done some baking before and then helped me (a 71-year-old) learn to bake. They were amazed that I had never baked cookies from scratch before and key in my commitment to bake some on my own for the event. The rest of the club contributed another 16 dozen cookies, so we had plenty to feed the group that attended the event. Although the

August 5<sup>th</sup> event didn't draw the crowd they had hoped for those that came were well fed and many went home with treats for their families. Six of our members attended the event and were responsible for set up and clean up. The Casper Active Service Club donated the remaining funds in the amount of \$102.00 donated by First Interstate Bank to USI to purchase food.



*(top right – USI House, left - Shelby Johnsen, bottom right – Deanna Frey, Karen Brannon, Donna Williamson, Nancy Beegles, Betty Gervais)*

### **Linda Simpson – Laramie Woman's Club President**

The Laramie Woman's Club is gearing up and starting into our fall meetings. Over the summer we held Art on the Lawn at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. We use this day to do a membership drive and give the public information at the end of Jubilee Days. Following our summer recess meeting will start in September. Our first meeting will be a time of fellowship, catching up with old friends and bringing in new friends. We will recognize and pin 10 new members. We will recognize those with many years of service.

The Mary Godat Bellamy Scholarship was awarded to Evan Heck for the 2023-2024 school year. This is the first scholarship presented by the Laramie Woman's Club. Thank you to the Education Committee for all their hard work in the set-up and execution of this award. The Education Committee also received two anonymous donations that will help provide supplies to Linford School.

The Executive Committee met this last week, and we have several projects that will be new and exciting events for the coming year.

Our most exciting news was that our long-time member Polly Wade won the Western Regional Jennie Award and will be attending the International Conference in Chicago. Polly has done so much for the Laramie Community, and we are so proud she is one of ours. Congratulations Polly and thank you for your dedication to the Laramie Community.

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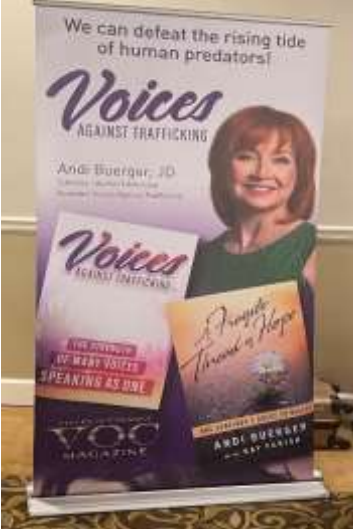
GFWC-Wyoming website: [www.gfwcwyoming.org](http://www.gfwcwyoming.org)

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**Western States Region Conference  
Redmon, Oregon**



*Pictured (Pam Crochet, Nancy Kaufman, Karen Kent, Laurie Pessetto, Karen Bard, Phyllis Salzburg, Shelly Toll from Wyoming, Ann Englehart, Mary McGahan from New Hampshire. Not pictured but in attendance Trish Peoples, Patty Benskin, Leslie Jo Gatti and Marianne Gatti)*

