

Be a Star for GFWC!



BEE One to Bring One by 1/1!


"Bee One to Bring One by 1/1!" is the motto that GFWC-MN Membership, Judy Loewe has been buzzing this year at the MVR Conference held in Bloomington and at the Annual GFWC-MN State Convention in Duluth. It's a honey of a motto and Judy says, "This message needs to BEE out to every GFWC Club member in Minnesota, no mayBEES about it." Have you been busy as bees and brought a new member into your club since January of 2015? You have (6) months left to meet the GFWC-MN Membership Committee's goal.

Two Members of the GFWC West Suburban Women's Club Got Pinned!



(L. to R.) Karla Mayhew, Lee Solee, Diane McCunn and June Seamans

At their May General Meeting, GFWC-WSWC President, Karla Mayhew and Membership Committee Chair, Diane McCunn presented Lee Solee with her Gold 'GFWC 50-Year Pin'; a Certificate of Appreciation; a lovely red rose; and a personal Congratulation Letter from our GFWC International President, Babs Condon. Also, Karla and Diane presented June Seamans with her Silver 'GFWC 25-Year Pin'; a Certificate of Appreciation; and her lovely red rose. Lee and June got lots of cheers and a rousing, standing ovation.

 **WANTED: Pictures of the VFW Auxiliary flag ceremony at this years State Convention in Duluth.** If any of you have pictures on your digital camera, please send them by email or paper mail to **Alyce Santa, Northeast District President at santaav@gmail.com.** Alyce would like to share them with the VFW Auxiliary.

★ **Have You Changed Officers in 2015?** Many of you have already provided your new club president's information to GFWC-MN. . . thank you. If you haven't sent in that information, please do so by July 25th so the state can update their directory. If you have a club geek, send that info too. Send to Pat Stevermer, GFWC-MN State President.

★ **The Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club Held Their Annual Arbutus Luncheon** on May 12th celebrating Spring and the coming of Summer. They enjoyed their Guest Speaker Mary Shideler, local naturalist, author, and photographer, who has kayaked all 1,007 lakes in Itasca County.

★ **The Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club Have Planned Their Annual Summer Outing.** On July 15th they will attend a variety show at *Jasper's Theater* in Park Rapids and have dinner at one of Park Rapid's excellent restaurants. After dinner they will drive to Alexandria and spend the night. On July 16th the ladies will tour the *Peterson Farm* in New London where they will see a restored 1912 schoolhouse. From there, they will peruse New London's many lovely shops before returning home.

GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Women's Club has it all sewed up!! . . . In an eight month period members sewed (70) 'Operation Smile' Dolls. Then the members took the sewed dolls home, turned and pressed them and had them ready for their spring 'work session'. The April work session found clubwomen stuffing and stitching the dolls. Pictured is Linda Larson, happy to have a tub full of O. S. dolls valued at \$400. These dolls will comfort so may children after their facial surgeries to correct cleft lips and palates. Also, the club sewed two lovely quilts and the delightful surprise was that a member's friend donated two more quilts to the club! Darlene Femrite states: "I guess it pays to talk about our club's great projects!"





(L. to R.): Alice Fink, Kris Abrahamson, Bernie Kittock, Barb Merriman (Team Captain), Marge Barfknecht, Norma Wandersee and Ann Lundsten (Standing) Lisa Blodgett, Jim Zimmerman, Julie Koppinger; (Not Pictured): Robert & Helen Bauman, Clarence Deacon Bruhn, Ruth Daly, Shirley Hayes, Mike Merriman, Sandy Pikus, Jeanie Pilarski, Bruce VanLith and Kelly Westberg.

★ **Delano's 11th Annual "Relay for Life" Event!**
FRIDAY, JULY 31ST
Starting Time – 4:30pm at Delano City Park

The GFWC of Delano Women's Club is sponsoring this event and also some members are participating in a 'Relay Team'. **Team Captain, Barb Merriman invites everyone to come to Delano and join all the fun!!** You do not have to be on a team or join in the relay, simply come as a spectator and have a wonderful day. Pictured is the club's Planning Meeting held in April by Captain Barb M. The relay event's theme this year is "Back to the 80's". The club is planning to have grab bags containing great surprises; a table with must-have treasures for sale; and Julie Koppinger's stand is really popular every year. Enjoy the opening ceremony, silent auction, games/activities, karaoke, scavenger hunt, theme laps, great food, the luminary ceremony, massages, and so much more. The club speaks out on behalf of Delano when they say, *"We gather together to show our support for all who are battling cancer and to show our love to all who have lost a loved one to cancer or have been a survivor themselves. We are sure that Delano will not stop having Relay for Life Events until there is a cure for cancer! Please come and see what is happening in our park, and give us your support!"*



★ **The Annual GFWC of Delano's Card Marathon Was a Success!**
 The community looks forward to this very popular club sponsored event every year. Card Marathon Committee. The photo is Pat Sawatzke and Norma Wandersee announcing the top winners for 500 and Cribbage. The card games are played for seven weeks starting on the 3rd Monday of October 2014 and ending the 3rd Monday of April 2015. Pat and Norma want to say, *"Thank you to all who participated in the card marathon! We thoroughly enjoyed the card marathon and the friends we have made."*

★ **The GFWC of Delano Women's Club Held Their Annual "Citizen of the Year" Banquet on May 2nd**

The club honored Lloyd Griep. Lloyd is a well known, dedicated volunteer who has given back to the Delano community in many great ways. The banquet was well attended by Lloyd's family, friends, clubs, organizations and political officers. Pictured in the photo are some of the Delano club members who attended.



Front Row (L. to R.): GFWC Club President, Barb Merriman; Chris Brazelton; Honoree, Lloyd Griep, Ann Lundsten - Back Row: Jeanie Pilarski, Jennifer Halverson, Barb Matuska, Lorraine Statema, Norma Wandersee, Mary Grotz, Alice Fink, Marge Barfknecht

★ **GFWC of Delano's Club Meetings This Year are Focused on Domestic Violence In All Forms**



Pictured are GFWC of Delano President, Chris Brazelton with their April Meeting's Guest Speaker, Chuck Perry. The club was very impressed with his

informative presentation *"Stop the Demand: Identifying the Social Supports for Sex Trafficking"* With Chuck's program in mind, the club approached the new GrandStay Hotel and Suites that just opened in Delano to find out if they had cable TV and what type of channels they offered. The club was pleased to discover that they did not offer any X-Rated channels. The club acknowledged and thanked GrandStay's effort to keep Delano a safe community and away from the impact and influences of this type of media .

★ The GFWC Athenian Club's Wayside Chapel ★



The GFWC Athenian Club researched roadside chapels about (40) years ago and decided to build their "Wayside Chapel" along with the help of the Fosston, MN community. In order for the chapel to become affiliated with the GFWC, the club had to research and propose a two-year 'community service project'. Once the Wayside Chapel proposal was given the green light by the GFWC in 1974, the women and community came together to build this tiny structure in Melland Park, just off U.S. Highway 2. The chapel has been an integral part of the Athenian Club's 90-year presence in Fosston and a labor of love ever since. The club members take turns opening and closing the chapel from Memorial Day to Labor Day; keeping it clean; watering the flowers and trees that have been planted in memory of long standing clubwomen; and tending it's sign – hand-painted by a local art student. Its interior is simple — walls made of wood paneling with a cross as their only adornment. Aged Bibles peek out from pockets in the short pews. In all, the chapel's footprint is 96 square feet. Each of the chapel's four pews seat two people. Its shallow altar allows only a few people to kneel, but the limited space hasn't stopped the tiny white church from being the site of numerous services and

community gatherings. The chapel also provides a change of scenery for those wandering over from the nearby Essentia Health Hospital and Nursing Home. It is not uncommon to see staff members and families pushing patients and residents in their wheelchairs to visit the chapel and the park. The club isn't sure if the church's small stature is record breaking, but Vicki Olson, Club Historian said it is one of the smallest chapels in Minnesota. Club President Clara Manecke said, *"Many visitors from various countries, states, and cities have stopped to visit our little chapel with comments about the beauty and peace. The club theme has always been 'A rested driver is a safe driver'"* Recently, it has become obvious that the little chapel is in need of some big repairs. The club formed a committee to investigate the situation and come up with some ways to raise money to pay for this project. The club raised about \$3,000 in grants/donations and repairs started this spring with help from the local High School Shop Class students enrolled at Fosston Public School. The inside walls are wood paneled so it has a rather dark interior, so the club has asked the school Art Classes to come up with some ideas. The club is still raising funds to complete all the repairs which includes replacing wood rot around the chapel windows and getting new windows. **If you would like to help, donations for the Wayside Club repairs can be sent to the GFWC Athenian Club C/O Leah Faudskar, 124 N. Johnson Avenue, Fosston, MN 56542.**



Clara Manake (L.) helped Ilene Reterson work on her quilt

★ GFWC Athenian Ladies

Take Part in the "Quilts of Valor" Sew Day

On February 7th, eight club ladies (pictured below with arrows) joined thirteen local quilters at the McIntosh, MN Community Center for a day of quilting with music and lunch provided. Great teamwork made the day a success – some sewed, some ironed, some cut blocks to finish three quilt tops. The completed quilts will be presented to local veterans touched by war.



Eight of the club ladies were part of the sewing team



Kathryn Carver's patriotic Quilt of Valor

★ GFWC-MN President, Pat Stevermer reports that applications for the Jennie Award have been arriving. Pat states, *"This is a monumental task to get all of the requirements in writing for your candidate. Thank you to those who made the effort to nominate a member and best of luck to each of them in the months ahead. The applications will be given to a panel of outside judges to review so we can make a recommendation to the regional president from our state. Eight regional finalists will be recognized at the 2016 International Convention in Baltimore."*



★ **"Never say Never!" That was Rose Meade's philosophy** (3) years ago when she became the one and only member of the GFWC Glenwood Literacy Women's Club. Rose's wish was that her club reach the '100 Year' milestone as a GFWC club. She also wanted her club to grow after the other members discontinued their federation status. She did it! Neighboring GFWC clubs Potpourri & Starbuck Study got together with the Glenwood

Literacy club to help celebrate this great accomplishment. A "100 Year" decorated balloon was presented to Rose by Potpourri Pat Lepper. Rose (pictured at the podium) spoke to the three groups about the importance of staying current about GFWC and her strong belief in everything GFWC represents. (Bottom picture) is West Central District President, Pam Mithun (L) at the state convention in Duluth congratulating Rose after she received her club's '100 BD Certificate'.

★ **A round of applause goes out to The GFWC Golden Valley Federated Women's Club! (gvfwc.com) They have had a really busy and rewarding year!** GFWC-GVWC President, Kathy Hewitt sent us their story –

They sent contributions to:

- ♦(2) H. S. Scholarships ♦Alzheimers Association
- ♦Dinner at Your Door ♦PRISM
- ♦Diabetic Association ♦GFWC 1734 Society

They had (2) fun and successful fundraisers:

- ♦The "Pappagallo Shopping Event"
- ♦A "Wine Tasting Party" at the Calvary Ctr. Cooperative

They sponsored:

- ♦A "New Members Orientation" & "Membership Social"
- ♦A booth at the Community Senior Resource Fair
- ♦A concert for "Music in the Park"

They volunteered:

- ♦At "Feed My Starving Children"
- ♦Collecting for "March of Dimes"
- ♦For the GFWC-MN "Shot @ Life" Challenge
- ♦At the "Adopt a Park" (cleaning the city's Medley Park)



Kay James wanted to share these two quotes with us that were found in the bible of Mildred Foss, former State President:

Life should not be a journey to the grave
Or arriving in an attractive and well-preserved body,
But rather to skid in sideways
Chocolate in one hand, wine in the other,
Body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming
"Damn what a Ride!"

Lord, if I must have my just desserts,
then make mine Chocolate!



★ **Edina Federated Women's Club volunteered at FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** on Monday, April 13th in Chanhassen. Special Projects Chair, Judy Cipolla sends out a big "THANK YOU" to the (24) club volunteers who participated. They checked in; saw a video; and packed food at a packing station or sat and applied labels for 1-1/2 hours; then cleaned up. While the packing was pretty intense work, they all managed very well. Along with other volunteers that day, FMSC told them they packed (56) boxes of food, or 12,096 meals that would be going to the Dominican Republic. Each meal costs 22¢ for a total of \$2,661.00. Judy states, "Overall we all felt it was a very worthwhile project and we enjoyed our time spent together as 'Feds'."

★ **Greetings from the EDINA FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB**

President Barbara Waterston sent us this article hi-lighting their very busy six months of fundraising, volunteering, socializing and proudly growing in numbers.

January was consumed with EFWC's major fundraiser, the "Feds Fest Benefit" which raised over \$41,000. Their Philanthropy Committee and club members voted to donate the money to (3) local organizations:

✓\$18,000 to "Edina Give and Go" – an organization that supports over (110) Edina students from all grade levels who face the challenge of financial hardships. The money will provide funding for students to experience and to participate in academic learning programs during summer as well as the school year.

✓\$18,000 to "The Edina Education Fund" to be used for (9) \$2000 scholarships that were awarded to Edina High School senior students in need wanting to go to college. The scholarships were presented to the individual students personally by their Philanthropy Committee in May.

✓A \$5,000 Legacy Gift to "Public Art in Edina" to commemorate EFWC's philanthropy services and contributions over the club's 45 years. The gift will be used to help obtain a sculpture for the Edina Promenade's area.



In May, President, Arlene Clapp (pictured right) and President-Elect, Barbara Waterston attended the GFWC State Convention in Duluth. Barbara states, "We had a wonderful time meeting so many gracious women who were willing to share with us valuable information and advice that will help me as an incoming President. A highlight for us was our long time member Rochelle Raming receiving her Empowering Woman Award. This was the first time EFWC nominated a club lady to be acknowledged for her outstanding dedication."

EFWC held their "Spring Fling" Banquet on May 14th during which their club installed their new President, Executive Officers and Committee Chairs. They also recognized their (16) new members bringing their membership total to 100! Congratulations EFWC! New President Barbara states, "The most rewarding time at the banquet was presenting the money raised at Feds Fest to our (3) recipients. Their stories of how much the money has helped the students makes all our hard work truly rewarding. Lastly, As I said at the banquet, volunteering + socializing can = fun!"



The Aug-Oct Newsletter will include hi-lights from Memphis, The Fall Workshop and MVR in Bismarck. Don't forget to send Karla (karlamayhew@comcast.net) your pictures and stories!



The May 1-3 GFWC of MN 121st State Convention in Duluth Was a Stellar Success!!

★ A Huge "THANK YOU" from President, Pat Stevermer!

Pat states, "The *Northeast District* did an incredible job hosting the (100) GFWC members and guests at our annual convention. The Planning Committee took great care with the many details and found inspirational speakers from the area. It was a delight to work with Jan, Alyce, Barb, Muriel, and everyone. They were truly "Stars for GFWC! Did you notice all the festive stars they used for the beautiful decorations, programs candy dishes, and menus?"



★ Our International Treasurer, **Suellen Brazil**, from Alabama, was a delight to meet and she shared so many things with us about GFWC. She spoke about the procedure for taking an idea from our club, district, or state and putting it into a 'Resolution' format. Our resolutions make such a big difference in our community, state or nation.

★ The GFWC Twentieth Century Club of Duluth had the task of counting all your donations for our chosen recipients. Chum received items and gift cards valued at \$1,334.00. The Women's Shelter items and donations were valued at 1,350.00. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the GFWC women for their generosity!

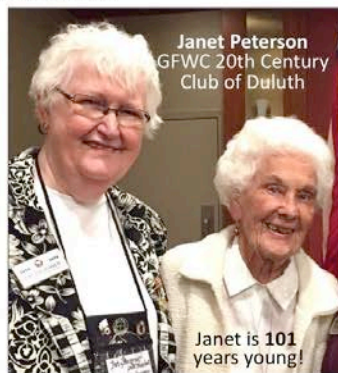
★ Communication is Key to GFWC!

At the Friday evening Board Meeting a number of communication issues were discussed. Karla Mayhew volunteered to put together the **GFWC-MN Newsletter**. Kay James and Linda Strong will get the **GFWC-MN Website** updated and add lots of exciting new things. A suggestion to have a **GFWC-MN Facebook Page** resulted in a committee of Lilah Crowe, Jan Latola and Karen Kaler. The committee will develop our Facebook guidelines and report to us at the Fall Council meeting.



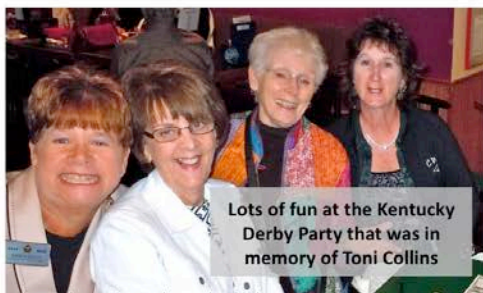
Our 2015 Empowering Women!

★ Kay James presented us with the biographies of (12) GFWC members that were selected as their club's 2015 Empowering Woman. (9) attended the Saturday Night Banquet and were honored for their service and dedication to GFWC.



Janet Peterson
GFWC 20th Century
Club of Duluth

Janet is 101
years young!



Lots of fun at the Kentucky Derby Party that was in memory of Toni Collins



★ Our membership voted to make a donation of \$125 to our GFWC International Headquarters in honor of our 125th anniversary.



