



GFWC-MN PRESIDENT'S SPRING NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY – APRIL 2017



Hello, My Federation Friends,



The GFWC-MN State Convention is just around the corner and I hope to see all of you there. We'll be doing some learning, some teaching, some playing, some helping, and some being helpful. We will learn about a very large problem in Minnesota – human trafficking. No, it's not someone else's problem, it belongs to all of us. On a lighter note, there will also be an author that will entertain us with her words of wisdom. We will learn more about each other and more about GFWC. And we'll have fun, fun, fun!!

Bring your questions, your ideas and suggestions; your books for the Book Sale; your items and dollars for the Lucky Bucks; your favorite joke; your District Gift Basket; and your District Flag.

Program Chairs bring your Presentation Displays and handouts.

District Presidents, do you have your 2018 district convention date? Some of you will need to change from your usual date because of the need to change our state convention date in 2018. The GFWC-MN State Convention will be in New Ulm on April 20th – 22nd.

I hope to see everyone in May at the Convention!

Regards, Pat Mumm, GFWC-MN President



A Message from Judy Loewe, GFWC-MN Communications & Public Relations Chair –

It is amazing how many ways to communicate to the people in the world other than radio, newspapers, television, and (not to be facetious) tell a woman. Examples beyond the basic E-mail, Facebook or Newsletter basics are: Facebook drives shared on our own Facebook page, Blast Texts done by the corresponding secretary, E-mails with links, Signature Events held same time, same poster, to name a few.

Our own Laura (Bergman) Christopherson knows more about the above and is on the International GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee. She is MVR's representative for our seven states. Anything you cannot understand from the ten pages in the GFWC Manual, she is a 'go-to' person or the chairman Darlene Adams, as listed in the GFWC Manual.

To get started through this Newsletter and by the many years we've tried to get all clubs all over the United States to have GFWC on their club name; and the years training our Federation Sisters about Branding – how our logo is imbedded in everyone's brain and what it stands for is helping. How many McDonald burgers did you eat before you knew what the Golden Arches stood for?

Here is a very valuable homework assignment for every member who has or access to a computer. Read the 10 pages to get the very basics of what is expected from GFWC Communications and Public Policy. Also look up the GFWC Stylebook at www.gfwc.org/gfwc-resources. This was once available as a booklet for purchase. It reminds me, in part, that is a refresher course for grammar, punctuation, proper letter form, respect for the logo etc. if we do not follow or use these tools, they cannot promote excellence of GFWC standards.

Take note: If you are making a display for a GFWC Program or Advancement, please include a head shot photo and attach it to your display along with your name. Then, we members in Federation will know who is responsible for that program in this administration.



Mark Your Calendar!

June 23 – 26, 2017
GFWC International Convention
Palm Desert, CA

August 11 & 12, 2017
GFWC-MN Fall Council
Little Falls, MN

September 21 – 24, 2017
GFWC Mississippi Valley
Regional Convention
Moravia, Iowa

April 20 – 22, 2018
GFWC-MN State Convention
New Ulm, MN

Want all the latest **GFWC-MN** information and updates? Go to: www.gfwcofmn.org

Want to know absolutely everything about **GFWC**? Visit: www.gfwc.org or connect to their other social media platforms:



If you haven't yet subscribed to **GFWC NEWS & NOTES**, what are you waiting for? Signing up is easy and gives you access to timely news items from Headquarters, our partners, and our work on a national and local scale. Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org.

Do you have club news you would like published in this newsletter?
Just paper mail or email your articles and photos to the Editor:

**Karla Mayhew, 5243 Minnetoga Terrace,
Minnetonka, MN 55343 or
karlamayhew@comcast.net**

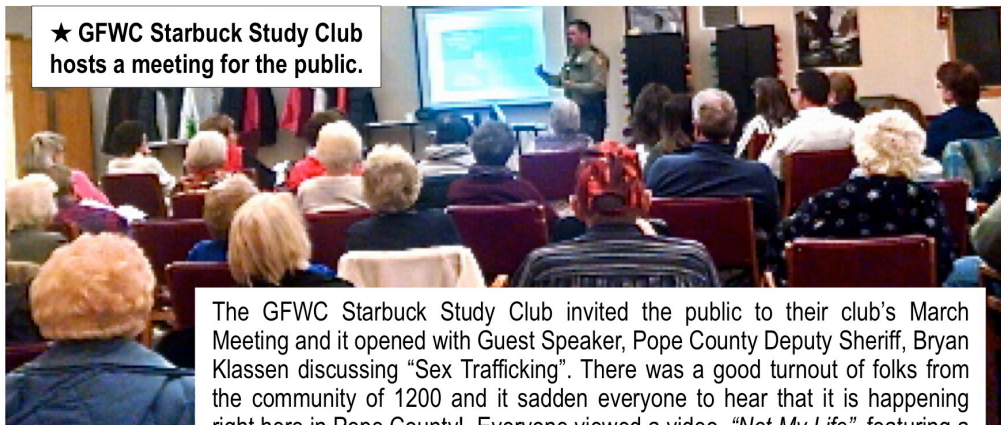
The deadline for the next newsletter is
JULY 24, 2017



★ The GFWC Woman's Study Club of Litchfield collected "Birthday Bags" for the Meeker County Food Shelf.



Thirty-two bags were delivered in April. The Birthday Bags are given to a parent who comes to the food shelf and needs help to make a little celebration for their child's birthday. They are able to take home a bag that contains a cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday plates, birthday napkins and balloons. Additional items can be added such as oil, forks, a toy or whatever else the club member chooses to add to their bags. The food shelf people were thrilled to receive this donation as it brightens the parent's day by allowing them to make their child's birthday special. The club plans to continue donating Birthday Bags each year and if the need at the food shelf increases, it might be done more often.



★ GFWC Starbuck Study Club hosts a meeting for the public.

The GFWC Starbuck Study Club invited the public to their club's March Meeting and it opened with Guest Speaker, Pope County Deputy Sheriff, Bryan Klassen discussing "Sex Trafficking". There was a good turnout of folks from the community of 1200 and it sadden everyone to hear that it is happening right here in Pope County! Everyone viewed a video, "Not My Life", featuring a 14 year old girl that survived her ordeal; heard the statistics of incidents locally and what parents can do; learned of warning signs to watch for; and were given resources to get more information and help.



★Subscribe to the WHRC Newsletter! The GFWC "Women's History & Resource Center" is excited to announce that it is now opening up its quarterly newsletter to all clubwomen. The WHRC Newsletter provides an in-depth look at the celebrated history of GFWC on the national, local, and individual levels. A publication primarily written by clubwomen, the newsletter proudly publishes articles written by you and about your history. The WHRC newsletter is also the best way to stay up-to-date on the latest events and happenings in the Women's History & Resource Center. To sign up, please visit www.gfwc.org. An enrollment box is located at the bottom on the website, underneath the News & Notes sign up. You can also sign up by providing your name, mailing address, email, and club name to **GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick** at kgarlick@gfwc.org



★ Donna Hysjulien, Past NE District President, and current Co-President of the GFWC Hibbing Club can be very very proud of her family – One weekend in July, since 2012, the family has hosted a "Roxie Red Race" Triathlon in memory of Donna's daughter Roxanne Hysjulien DeMillo who passed away of breast cancer on April 11, 2007. Roxie had been a member of the Hibbing club and has served as Secretary. The triathlon consists of a swim in a small lake in northern Minnesota, a bike ride in the woods, and a run on the hills. Donna's family members range in age from 11 to 60 years and all the funds needed to sponsor the triathlon have been raised by the family and friends. All the proceeds from the event are donated to "Angel Fund", a Hibbing community non-profit organization that helps cancer patients in need, especially for what is not covered by insurance. In the last five years of the annual event, the family has donated over \$40,000 to the fund. In 2016, the donation exceeded \$12,000! Roxie's husband, Mark DeMillo passed away last summer, and as a memorial to Mark and to honor the efforts of the Hysjulien family, the GFWC of Hibbing club donated \$500 to the Angel Fund.



★ Subscribe to GFWC Clubwoman Magazine! Go to gfwc.org via Marketplace, or contact **Membership Services** at 202-347-3168 or toll-free at 800-443-4392. Don't miss out on this valuable, informative publication! GFWC Clubwoman Magazine is the premier publication of the GFWC Clubs, and one of the most useful and beneficial communication tools we have to inform and educate our members. Published bi-monthly, the magazine is a source for insightful and informative content that keeps subscribers in tune with all things GFWC.



★ While at a DC Conference, Jean Walker, GFWC-MN President Elect toured our GFWC International Headquarters in Washington DC. Jean also visited with Sheila Shea, GFWC International President (pictured left). Sheila sends her greetings to everyone in Minnesota!



OPERATION SMILE was one of the GFWC Silver Lake Women's Club's biggest 'Special Projects', spending (175) volunteer hours! During the winter their club's (20) members sewed (20) smile bags, (9) gowns, and (25) quilts. At their February Meeting they spent the evening tying all the quilts. In addition to the bags, gowns, and quilts, they also shipped (3) boxes containing Scotch Tape, glue sticks, masking tape, shampoo, wash clothes, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, coloring books, crayons, pencils, toys, and small stuffed animals. The (3) boxes total value was \$815.00! Last but not far from least, the club sent \$240.00 for a child's surgery and one club woman sent another \$240.00 as part of her grandchildren's Christmas gifts.



★ The GWFC Silver Lake Women's Club was in the News!

The **McLeod County Chronicle Newspaper** stated: "GFWC Silver Lake Women's Club made a generous donation to Glencoe - Silver Lake's Lakeside Elementary School in Silver Lake to purchase books for the library. Pictured left are the students holding the books that were purchased."

Also, during 'American Education Week' the Silver Lake Club hosted an "Appreciation Tea" for the staff of the Lakeside Elementary School in Silver Lake. They served them yummy bars and beverages.

★ **The Pope County Women's Clubs Hosted their 115th West Central District Convention Saturday, April 22nd.** With pinwheels on tables and a miniature windmill twirling outside the Starbuck Community Center (pictured right), the convention's theme was "On the Winds of Change." The three clubs hosting the convention were Starbuck Study Club GFWC, GFWC Glenwood Literary and GFWC Potpourri Glenwood. Fifty-one members from fourteen clubs and eight visitors came to celebrate their accomplishments. The guest speakers were Representative Paul Anderson, Starbuck Chief Johnsrud, Pope County Human Services Coordinator Nicole Names and Kelly Asche, Coordinator for the Small Town Center, U of M Morris. Each spoke about positive changes they have helped make after adverse community situations despite being small. Mr. Asche concluded the program with thought provoking facts about how we can describe small towns.

After bringing a message from GFWC-MN President Pat Mumm, who was unable to be two places at once, GFWC-MN President Elect Jean Walker encouraged members to "think outside the box."

A memorial service led by GFWC Potpourri Glenwood's Co-President Donna Hahn remembered five deceased members.

There was lots to celebrate. . . Char Haugen (pictured right) for her (55) years of dedicated service to the GFWC Zetetic Club of Benson; GFWC Morris Golden Star Juniorette and the Starbuck Club for gaining the most members; and the Laq qui Parle Valley Study Club for their 50th anniversary. A standing ovation was given to Edith Kelly, President of GFWC Women's Club Alexandria and their club members for serving their community for 113 years! Sixteen first time district attendees received their GFWC pins. The Nutcracker served lunch, Amanda and Molly Trumble provided violin music, and the Swift County GFWC Clubs invited the West Central District clubs to the 2018 convention. The convention adjourned by singing, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."



The West Central District Board pose for a convention picture: (L to R) Lorie Billehus, Historian; Diane Melaaas, Treasurer; Julie Blank, 1st VP; Darlene Femrite, President and Judy Gunderson, Treasurer



WINE & CANVAS EVENT



SILENT AUCTION

★ Edina Federated Women's Club GFWC sprung into Spring!

EFWC jump-started the year by enjoying the "Million Dollar Quartet" Musical at the historic Old Log Theater in Excelsior, MN.

In February, they collected and delivered items to the Sojourner House (domestic violence shelter).

March brought out the EFWC members' more creative side. A "Home Hacks Luncheon" gave their 'older and experienced' members the opportunity to share ideas & suggestions on how to make housework & life's tasks simpler and easier. Their artistic talents were discovered at a "Wine & Canvas Event" at the Edina Art Center (pictured above). After enjoying wine and fabulous appetizers, they were guided, by a true artist, on how to do a watercolor painting. Everyone painted the same subject, but each painting was as different and unique as the person who created it!

Their April Meeting gave the members an opportunity to begin 'spring cleaning' by donating new or slightly used items for their "Silent Auction" Fundraiser (pictured left). It was a great success and everything sold! At Edina's Annual Volunteer Awards Reception, members watched with great pride as clubwoman, Sue Stover's was honored as their "EFWC-GFWC Volunteer of the Year". Sue is the editor/publisher of the EFWC-GFWC Newsletter "Jottings", making her the communications' lifeline of the club!

★ A Message from Jean Walker, GFWC-MN President Elect and Membership Chair. . .



Dear GFWC Sisters,

The GFWC year is almost over and the GFWC State Convention is just around the corner, let's keep 'membership' in the forefront. Just remember, one member at a time and our clubs will grow, *"think outside the box"*.

I had the pleasure to visit two District Conventions this year, the Northeast District and the West Central District. It was an honor to represent our GFWC-MN President Pat Mumm at these conventions and relay our messages to our members. It was a great opportunity for me to see what happens at other conventions besides mine in the Northwest District. Both conventions were just great and I would like to thank them for the warm hospitality shown to me.

Sincerely, Jean Walker

★ A Message from Pat Stevermer, GFWC-MN GFWC Community Improvement Program Chair and Past President. . .



Has your club created a Community Improvement Project? The program awards offer monetary prizes (3 per state/5 nationally) each year. Any project that you do that addresses a specific unique need within the community can become a Community Improvement Project. Plan to collaborate with GFWC clubs, partner organizations, professional or other membership organizations, government entities or other non-profit organizations in your community.

A number of club projects in previous years would certainly qualify as a Community Improvement Project. Complete details are online in the GFWC Club Manual in the 'Awards, Contests and Grants' section. It would be wonderful to have at least three projects that meet the criteria for our state awards and one project can be submitted for the national awards.

The contest period is January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. A notebook with the narrative description and supporting materials must not exceed seven pounds or measure more than 15" x 20" in size. They need to be postmarked no later than March 1, 2018 to me, the GFWC-MN Program Chair. The state winner's notebook will not be returned but is housed in the Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) in Washington DC.

Judging Criteria

Project selection – 25 points
Project development – 50 points
Project evaluation – 25 points

State Awards

First Place – \$50.00
Second Place – \$35.00
Third Place – \$25.00

If you need a copy of the program criteria and application, or have any questions, please email, write or call **Pat Stevermer, Community Improvement Program Chair, 720 3rd Ave SW, Sleepy Eye MN 56085 – stevermer@sleepyeyetel.net, 507-794-7112 or 507-920-6513**

★ CHECK OUT THE GFWC VIDEO CONTEST!



On Federation Day (April 24th), in the spirit of coming together to recognize our dynamic past and exciting future, GFWC launched a special 'video contest'. You are encouraged to take the time at your next club meeting and film a 30 to 60 second video with your club answering the question: *"What does being a GFWC clubwoman mean to you?"* You can use your smartphone to film the video. Once you're happy with the video, **email it to pr@gfwc.org**. Videos will be shared on the GFWC Facebook page, and members will vote for their favorites. You are encouraged to be as creative as you'd like with your videos! Let's show the world what being a GFWC clubwoman is all about!!

Voting for the club videos will begin May 15, 2017, and the winning club will be announced June 1. The winning club will receive a \$100 gift card for the GFWC Marketplace. Stay tuned to the GFWC Facebook page for more details.



★ Check Your Mailbox for GFWC's "Membership Quarterly"!

GFWC has created a new publication, Membership Quarterly. Each club president will receive a copy in the coming weeks. The theme of the first issue is the "Benefits of Belonging". The publication outlines many of the valuable reasons to be a part of GFWC and how to find additional information about perks and programs. We ask that club presidents share their copy of the Membership Quarterly during upcoming club meetings.

If club presidents do not receive a copy of the Membership Quarterly, they may email **Membership Services and Programs Director Melanie Gisler** at mgisler@gfwc.org.



★ A "Jennie Award" Message from Sherry Wellman, GFWC-MN Jennie Award Program Chair . . .

Nominating a clubwoman for the GFWC Jennie Award is not an easy task. But it can be done and GFWC-MN has the Jennie Award winners to illustrate the fact! For more information, go online to the GFWC Club Manual and find the 'Jennie Award Contest' section or contact me, at sherrywellman56@gmail.com.

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only GFWC national honor that recognizes individual members for their personal excellence.

JENNIE AWARD RULES

- ✓ Clubs may nominate one member who has demonstrated the qualities outlined under the judging criteria for this award.
- ✓ Nominee must be a member in good standing of a GFWC club for a minimum of five years. Her tenure of service may be with several clubs. Years of service must be consecutive not concurrent.
- ✓ Current and past members of the GFWC Executive Committee are ineligible.
- ✓ Nominations should emphasize a member's entire lifetime of service.
- ✓ Clubs must complete and submit the official GFWC 'Jennie Award Nomination Form' along with a maximum 500-word written narrative. Narratives should include descriptions of the nominee's: Club activities; Participation in community groups and organizations (both volunteer and professional); and commitment to her nuclear or extended family.
- ✓ Clubs must submit the following supportive materials along with nomination form and narrative: Photograph of nominee (no larger than 5x7 inches); Clips of two-three newspaper (or other media) stories about successful projects that the member contributed (it is not necessary for such articles to mention the member by name); a 'Letter of Endorsement' from club President; and a 'Letter of Endorsement' from a representative of another organization.
- ✓ Nomination forms and supporting materials, including photographs, will not be returned.
- ✓ Clubs must submit the nomination materials to their State President postmarked by June 1, 2017, for state-level judging.

★ TIPS for GFWC Club Presidents. . .

You are the President of your club. You must be ready to represent your club at all times. You no longer speak as an individual, but in the name of GFWC and as the leader and 'President' of your club.

Learn about all the obligations of your club. If you encounter a problem, solve them with the aid of your officers, chairs or senior members and with advice from your GFWC leaders at the district, state or national levels.

You are now President, a friend to all your members. Any differences you might have with a member must be put aside when you are presiding as club president.

Always be enthusiastic, tactful, dignified, courteous, fair-minded and loyal to your office and to club members.

Never be domineering, but yet be firm and confident in your leadership role.

Get to know each of your club members. Work with all of them and be a good listener. Whenever they do a job well, be sure to acknowledge it and thank them personally.

Go out of your way to speak to new members and get to know them. Always make them feel welcome and engaged in your club.

Periodically touch base with your Officers and Committee Chairs personally to see that their reports or projects are underway. Are they going to meet their deadline? Do they need any assistance from you?

Keep club communications flowing. Inform your club when members receive special praises or awards. Always compliment the club on work well done and tell them how PROUD you are to be their President.

And, lastly. . . SMILE!



There is no 'I' in Teamwork but we sure are glad there is 'U' in our volunteers!



IN REMEMBRANCE

Ethelmae (Skiem) Bates, 1920 – 2017



Ethelmae (Skiem) Bates, age 96, was born in Litchfield, MN and graduated from the Litchfield High School in 1938. She continued her education at the Minnesota School of Business, graduating with a bookkeeping degree in 1940. She worked as a switchboard operator in Willmar for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, rising to the position of International Operator. Ethelmae was married to Charles E. Bates in 1951 and they were blessed with one son, Richard and she was a second mother to Charles's two teenage sons. After her son's graduation, she re-entered the work force and co-founded NP Transportation Company where she used her telephone skills to broker freight across the country. In later years, Ethelmae would spend her days at her son's office greeting customers and answering the phone until the last few months of her life. She never lost those telephone skills she learned as a young operator. She always answered with a cheery "Hello" and a get-to-the-point style. Ethelmae was an energetic and active member in GFWC Woman's Study Club of Litchfield and held numerous positions within the club and the West Central District. Each month, she was always happy to call and connect with all of the Litchfield club members and remind them of the upcoming meeting. Ethelmae held the honor of serving as GFWC-MN State President from 1970-1972 and loved traveling around the US representing Minnesota. The highlight of her presidency was a GFWC trip to Washington DC, where she was invited to join First Lady Pat Nixon at the White House for a luncheon. In addition to being a GFWC clubwoman, she was a member of the Eastern Star and served on the Litchfield Civic Arena Commission and Mayor's Advisory Board. Ethelmae loved to play bridge and taught the game to many others as well. Her zest for life and genuine interest in others continued throughout all her years. She asked for nothing and praised everyone. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

Jeannie Louise (Colbeck) Wegner, 1925 – 2017



Jeannie Louise (Colbeck) Wegner, age 91, was born in Luverne, MN. She grew up in Rochester and graduated from high school there in 1943. She continued her education at Indiana University. In 1946, she married Hugh A. Wegner. They lived in Sparta, WI, Rochester, MN, and later moved and settled in Litchfield, MN. Jeannie is survived by one son, two daughters, 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband and one daughter. Jeannie was very proud to be a Charter Member of the MN GFWC Woman's Study Club of Litchfield that was organized and federated in 1957. With Jeannie's death, the club lost their last charter member. She held every office in the club and served on every committee. She was very proud of the last West Central District Convention that Litchfield hosted in 2014. In addition to being a GFWC clubwoman, Jeannie ran her own antique store for a short time in

Litchfield, was a member of the Eastern Star, and volunteered at the hospital gift shop. Her faith was very important to her, and she was an active member of the United Methodist Church in Litchfield. Singing was a big part of Jeannie's life; whether singing with the South Fork Singers, singing in church, or just singing around her home. Jeannie loved playing Bridge and was a member of several Bridge clubs. The kindness and smile Jeannie displayed will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Jean "Ethel" Liudahl, 1928 – 2017



Jean '(Ethel)' Liudahl of Edina died March 16, 2017. She was born in Spring Grove, MN and grew up in Harmony, MN where she graduated from high school. Jean moved to Minneapolis and was employed by the Hennepin County Department of Financial and Economical Assistance.

Jean joined the Edina Federated Women's Club GFWC in 1992, and was an active member of the club for (25) years, holding several offices including President and Co-Chair of the Santa House.

After her retirement, Jean also volunteered at Mount Olivet Church and the Three Rivers Park System, where, in 2000, she was named 'Volunteer of the Year'. Jean had many interests including the love of skiing, playing tennis and golfing. Her interest in travel took her to many countries all over the world.

She will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Evelyn "Evie" Virginia Kraemer, 1929 – 2017



Evelyn "Evie" Kraemer, age 89, passed away January 27, 2017. Evie was preceded in death by her first husband James Knight, second husband Bud Kraemer, and two sons. She is survived by three sons, one stepdaughter, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Evie spent her childhood in Goldfield, Iowa and graduated from Goldfield High School and received a full scholarship from Iowa State Teachers College. She graduated from college in 1949 with her teaching certificate. Evie lived in Hopkins, MN since 1953 and joined the GFWC West Suburban Women's Club in 1987. For thirty years she was a dedicated active club woman and served as Recording Secretary, seven times as the Telephone

Committee Chair and four times as the House and Hospitality Committee Chair. Evie loved playing bridge and served as the GFWC-WSWC Bridge Chair five times and continuously played in the club's bridge marathons that earn money for student scholarships. Evie loved bird watching, camping and golf. She was an avid fan of the Minnesota Twins. Evie was loved by all who knew her. She was known for her kindness to all, her indomitable spirit and strong faith. She is truly missed by her GFWC Club sisters.