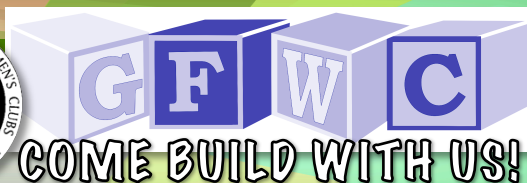


# The President's 2016 Fall Newsletter August - October



## MESSAGES FROM GFWC-MN PRESIDENT PAT MUMM. . .

★ **Have I told you lately how important you are to GFWC?** Well, in case I haven't, I want each and everyone of you to remember that you are very, very important to GFWC International, to the Mississippi Valley Region, to GFWC-MN, to your District, to your Club, and to me! There are lots of women depending on you, and you have lots of wonderful GFWC women that you can depend on. Think of some of the great things we as GFWC have accomplished as an international organization – Child Labor Laws, an eight hour work week, equality for women laws, 75% of the nation's public libraries, campaigned for the Pure Food and Health Act, the passing of mandatory seat belts and white lines on highways and the list goes on and on for 125 years. Individually our clubs do many great things for our communities, but just think, when all clubs work together in GFWC we make the world a better place too! Working together we can save children's lives (Operation Smile and Shot@Life), we can save women and children from domestic violence, we can save premature babies lives (March of Dimes), we can help cancer research (St Jukes Children's Hospitals), we can promote education (HOBY & ESO), we can promote leadership (LEADS), and we can promote legislation in the US Congress. We must all work together, every GFWC club, and every GFWC member is important – without **YOU** GFWC can't continue to accomplish great things into the future. Yes, we are a powerful force and as Helen Reddy once sang, *"Together we can do anything!! We are woman, hear us roar!"*

★ That brings me to a really important message and a **reminder to every GFWC-MN Club President – Don't forget to send in your club's 'Annual Report'** that runs from January 1 thru December 31st of 2016. Make sure you send your reports to **Jennell Johnson, PO Box 254, Silver Lake, MN 55381 as soon after January 1st as you can (January 20th is the absolute deadline)**. Jennell has to compile the reports from each club and send the appropriate report information to each GFWC-MN Program Chair. In turn, each chair must then read through all the information and compile a state report for their particular program. Next, all the chair's program reports are submitted to me so that I can compile my GFWC-MN State's Annual Report that is sent to the GFWC International Committee Chair. So you see, getting your reports mailed in on time is critical for Jennell and for me in order to meet our deadlines. I hope you have all been diligently keeping track of your club's volunteer hours, your money raised, and your in-kind donations. This is a good time to get started on your reports. It's just like doing your homework on a Friday night so you don't have to worry about it all weekend. Were you a Friday night student or did you wait until Sunday to get it done? I can't stress enough how important it is that every club write a report. When everyone sends their volunteer hours and money donated, the numbers add up to a whole bunch! It's a powerful tool for GFWC to make a strong impact and keep the attention of the US Congress. Let's always be that powerful force!

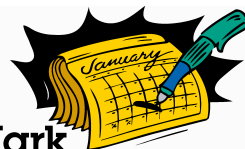
★ **If you ever have a question or there is anything I can help you with, my door is always open**, don't hesitate to call or email me – HM: 320-392-5451, CELL: 320-287-0574, [patmumm@gmail.com](mailto:patmumm@gmail.com). I am going to try to attend as many District Conventions as I can in 2017. Also, I would like to attend a meeting of your club and get to know you. Just call or email me to set up a date, preferably when our Minnesota weather is nice, I'm not fond of winter driving! ☺

## ★IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS

### ★From the GFWC-MN Historian, Kay James

Please send me a copy of your latest club directory **OR** just a list of all your club members with their address, email, and phone number **by November 15, 2016**. This information will go into the 2016-2018 GFWC-MN album that will be sent to the Minnesota Historical Society. Send your directory or list to: **Kay James, 31321 Forest Trail, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Your 'members list' could also just be emailed to: [kaydon@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kaydon@paulbunyan.net)**

Seven clubs have already sent me their directories. No matter how small or large your club is, if you belong to GFWC-MN, I would like your information in our state history book. . . Thank you.



## Mark Your Calendar!

**May 5 – 7, 2017**  
**GFWC-MN Convention**  
**Bloomington, MN**

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

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

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

**April 24 – GFWC Federation Day**

### **2017 GFWC-MN** **District Conventions**

April 06 – Central, Blackduck  
April 18 – East Central, Edina  
April 18 – Northeast, Virginia  
April 08 – Northwest, Fosston  
April 22 – Southeast, Winthrop  
April 01 – Southwest, Windom  
April 22 – West Central, Starbuck

Want all the latest **GFWC-MN** information and updates? Go to: **[www.gfwcofmn.org](http://www.gfwcofmn.org)**

Want to know absolutely everything about **GFWC**? Visit: **[www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)** or connect to their other social media platforms:



## **GOT FACEBOOK?**

Be a friend on  
"GFWC of Minnesota"!!

If you haven't yet subscribed to **News & Notes**, the best source for all things GFWC, what are you waiting for? Signing up is easy and gives you access to timely news items from around 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](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org).



★ A Friendly Reminder to Club Presidents ★

Send in your GFWC-MN Dues before December 1, 2016

Make your check Payable to "GFWC of MN" in the amount of \$20.00 per active club member. Mail your check to:

GFWC-MN Treasurer, Pam Mithun  
46653 208th Street  
Morris, MN 56267

Along with your check, please include a current list of all your members along with their address, phone, cell, and email address. If you have any questions, you can contact Pam at 320-287-2134 or [pammithun@yahoo.com](mailto:pammithun@yahoo.com)

★ Pat Stevermer, GFWC-MN Community Improvement Chair would like to share information on the "GFWC Community Improvement Program Award"

This international GFWC award program aims to enhance the lives of our neighbors around the world by meeting specific community needs and elevating our clubs' status within their communities. Any club can create a 'Community Improvement Program' Project and apply for an award. Think of a partnership to address your community need, assist with the leadership development, and raise GFWC's profile in your community. Collaborate with GFWC clubs, partner organizations, professional or other membership organizations, government entities or other non-profit organizations. Establish the project as ongoing as long as the need remains.

The **2016-2018 GFWC Club Manual** has all of the detailed information for the Community Improvement Program Award. You can even fill out and download the **application form** right from the GFWC Website. The program period is January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2017. **Entries are due March 1, 2018 to the GFWC-MN Chair, Pat Stevermer.** Your club has plenty of time to apply for this award and Pat would like to encourage you to please send her your club's community project.

Along with the entry form your written narrative should include the following information:

✓Identify and define the community need. ✓Describe the project selection process. ✓Explain how your club engaged community support. ✓Define how the project is/was financed. ✓Identify the media support and process in which it was obtained. ✓Describe how you overcame obstacles. ✓Provide a list of your collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations. ✓Describe your club's continuing role in the project. ✓Explain the project's long-term effect on the community. ✓Identify results and successes. ✓Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc. ✓Focus on your content.

Please note: Your project notebook with the application form, narrative and supporting materials cannot weigh over seven pounds or be more than 15" X 20" in size. The first place state entry will not be returned and it becomes part of GFWC WHRC.



The "GFWC-MN 2017 EMPOWERING WOMEN PROGRAM" is the perfect way to honor one of your outstanding club members. Every odd year, GFWC of Minnesota gives your club the opportunity to honor one clubwoman who demonstrates the unique quality of empowering other women and their club. This is your chance to honor her during the GFWC of Minnesota Annual Convention in Bloomington on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Also, you could honor her during your District Convention.

The following attributes best describe a GFWC Empowering Woman – She demonstrates outstanding contributions to your club and its projects. She exhibits significant leadership qualities and the ability to encourage others to develop their leadership skills. She always portrays a positive attitude and a willingness to empower others.

Please write a brief half-page description of your Empowering Woman's contributions to your club and how she has empowered others. Be sure to include her activities at the GFWC District, State or International levels. Please include a photo suitable for reproduction. The information and photos you provide will be compiled into a commemorative booklet for distribution at the state convention's Empowering Woman Banquet.

Please submit your material by March 1, 2017 to:

Pat Mumm, GFWC-MN President,  
47881 310th Street, Hancock, MN 56244 – or [patmumm@gmail.com](mailto:patmumm@gmail.com)



Do you have GFWC club news you would like published?

Just mail or email your article & photos to:  
Karla Mayhew, 5243 Minnetoga Terrace,  
Minnetonka, MN 55343 or  
[karlamayhew@comcast.net](mailto:karlamayhew@comcast.net)

The deadline for the next newsletter edition is **January 27th.**

★ IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE GFWC-MN DISTRICT PRESIDENTS!

The GFWC-MN President, Pat Mumm has received several emails and it appears that not all your club members have been receiving the President's Newsletter. Pat can't stress enough the importance of good communication. **Communicating is vital in keeping our clubs connected, informed and in-the-loop.** Not only does the newsletter share what clubs are doing but it is one of Pat's tools to get important GFWC information out to everyone.

★District Presidents play a very important role in getting the newsletter started on it's distribution path. They are responsible for forwarding the newsletter to all their Club Presidents. If you are a district president and having problems receiving or opening the newsletter by email, you can always contact Karla Mayhew and she will help work out a solution. Don't forget to remind your club presidents that they are responsible for getting a copy of the newsletter out to all their club members and that you are counting on them.

Pat will be contacting the club presidents asking them to let her know when they receive their newsletter. Between Pat, Karla and you as District President, together we can pinpoint how to be more effective getting the newsletter out to everyone to read.

★ IMPORTANT MESSAGE From the GFWC-MN International Outreach Chair, Darlene Femrite. . . "Heads up to all clubs who are planning an "Operation Smile Project". The latest word from Operation Smile is that they have an ample supply of dolls, but have a need for gowns.

Speaking of needs – GFWC has pledged to raise a great deal of money in the next year to sponsor an "Operation Smile Medical Mission". This mission will provide surgery for more than 100 children suffering from cleft lip and cleft palate. \$240 covers one child's surgery. These children are depending on GFWC! Please consider this in your club's plan for the year and donate what you can to this important mission. Thank you."





Front Row (L. to R.) Karen Kaler, Judy Loewe, Lucy Larson, Pat Mumm, Kay James, Becky McAlpine, Back Row L. Pat Stevermer, (3) ladies from North Dakota, (Not Pictured) Boosters Dan Mc Alpine & Stan Mumm

★ GFWC Minnesotans Enjoyed the Mississippi Valley Regional Conference September 22 – 25 In Excelsior Springs, MO



GFWC Volunteer at "Giving the Basics"

In the caves below Kansas City, MO, GFWC members volunteered for a non-profit organization called "Giving the Basics." Did you know government food stamps won't buy shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper and many more basic necessities of everyday living that we take for granted? 'Giving the Basics' tracks the need for these products and distributes them to more than 65 pantry locations and 186 schools in 14+ school districts, making the basics accessible monthly to 220,000 people. GTB products have a positive impact low-income families, students, battered women, veterans, seniors, former prisoners and the mentally ill. Their products help children attend school feeling fresh so they are comfortable in a learning environment and they assure adults have the dignity they need so they can gain employment. GFWC members spent time boxing items, labeling boxes, and delivering boxes to the appropriate sections in the warehouse.



When the members volunteer service was done at Giving to Basics, they enjoyed a brief bus tour of downtown Kansas City and had a delicious lunch. Then it was onward to the Bingham Waggoner Estate in Independence, MO. They toured the Bingham Waggoner (20) room mansion (90% of the furniture is original to the house and nothing but the basement was off limits due to safety reasons). Later there was time for a quick trip around Independence where they ended their day at the Truman Library and Museum.

Saturday was a day of meetings. Our GFWC speakers and their topics were: Karen Kaler (MN), Membership; Bonnie Thom (ND), Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention; Sandy Phillips (IA), Leadership; Tara Plasek (NE), Advocates for Children; Karen Martinek (IA), GFWC Legislation & Public Policy; and Sheila Shea GFWC President, Communications & Public Relations. Sheila and Mary Ellen Brock, GFWC President Elect spoke about GFWC's Strategic Plan and 'GFWC Proud'.

The Guest Speaker was Kristen Moore from "Everytown, USA" ([www.everytownusa.org](http://www.everytownusa.org)). Everytown is a movement of Americans working together to end gun violence and build safer communities. Gun violence touches every town in America. For too long, change has been thwarted by the Washington gun lobby and by leaders who refuse to take common-sense steps that will save lives. But something is changing. More than 3 million mayors, moms, cops, teachers, survivors, gun owners, and everyday Americans have come together to make their own communities safer. Together, we are fighting for the changes that we know will save lives. Everytown starts with you, and it starts in your town.

The next MVR Conference is September 21 – 24, 2017 in Moravia, Iowa. Mark your calendar and plan on attending, it is a great experience!



**In Memory of Past GFWC-MN President, Laurel Thurston Bessesen.** Laurel Bessesen age 93, of Minnetonka, formerly of Edina, passed away Sept. 20, 2016. Preceded in death by her husband John and survived by two sons and one daughter. Laurel was born in Minneapolis, graduated from South High School, and studied art at the U of M. In 1939, she became one of the nation's first flight attendants and worked for Mid-Continent Airlines. Laurel and John

made their home in Edina and she helped run her husband's marketing businesses, wrote and published a cookbook and was a member of a GFWC Women's Club in District 5. District 5 merged with East Central District in 1990. Laurel was a GFWC District President 1974-1976 and from 1984-1986 she was named President of the GFWC of Minnesota. She often made the newspapers in the '40s, '50s and '60s because of her involvement in the community and in local charities. Along with GFWC, she was a member of the retired airlines attendants "Braniff Clipped Bees"; WCCO Good Neighbor; the DAR; and the Mary Esther Sunshine Circle assisting shut-ins and the needy. Laurel loved horses, figure skating, boating on Lake Minnetonka and driving her own Corvette. She possessed a divine sense of humor; a keen intellect, and didn't let much stand in her way throughout her 93 years. She will be remembered lovingly by the ones whose lives she touched.

★ **The Edina Federated Women's Club of GFWC sends their greetings to everyone.** . . After a summer break, the EFWC women wasted no time renewing friendships and signing up for social activities and opportunities to volunteer. Our social activities include Bunco, Bridge clubs, Gourmet, Happy Hour, Mah Jongg, Book Club, the "Out to Lunch Bunch" and the newest activity "Meet for Coffee".

As much as we love to have fun, EFWC takes volunteering seriously. In September, eight members prepared and served dinner to ten women and thirteen children at Sojourner's Battered Women's Shelter.



In October, (7) members participated in packing rice food packets at "Feed My Starving Children".

Pictured at FMSC (L. to R.) Derrick and Ellie Alcock, Pat VanderWall, Eunice Groschen, behind Pat & Eunice is Ingrid Emstad. We had a "New Members Gathering". This offered the opportunity for our newest members to meet our board members and committee chairs on a personal level. It was so rewarding, everyone wants the gathering to become a club tradition. Have a great Autumn from EFWC!



**GFWC West Suburban Women's Club (East Central District) honored the National Park Service's Centennial** by having Teddy Roosevelt speak at their October General Meeting in Plymouth, MN. Posing with Adam Lindquist (Teddy Roosevelt re-enactor) L. to R. are Club Co-Presidents Marilyn Berdahl and Lois Tlusty. Lindquist adjusted his glasses, and instantly transformed into Teddy Roosevelt. With the upper crust, slightly English clipped tones of 1900, Teddy captivated us with his incredible life story. Lindquist finished with a stirring soliloquy about how Roosevelt was one of the truest of American heroes, a passionate advocate of peace, a brave warrior leading the Rough Riders, and a man who made decisions not on political expediency, but on the effects his choices would have for 3 generations. As Roosevelt said, *"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."*



2016 is the centennial of the National Park Service, and GFWC-WSWC's program was the perfect way to honor GFWC's long history of promoting conservation. From the Grand Canyon to the Great Smoky Mountains, the US is filled with breathtaking scenery. National Parks have so much to offer and play a vital part in preserving our natural resources. As the NPS marks their milestone, **GFWC has much to celebrate too.** GFWC clubwomen were leaders in the creation of the National Park Service and bound together to advocate for places people could go to enjoy nature.

As the American industrialization advanced in the 19th century, and urban centers swelled, Americans counteracted the effects with the reform movements that came to define the Progressive Era. **GFWC Women became the foot soldiers behind the battles for child labor laws, education reform, and the conservation movement.**

The wilderness was often viewed as a masculine territory, too wild for a lady of the time. However, that did not stop women across the nation from embroiling themselves in the fight to maintain America's natural landscape and resources, with the **General Federation of Women's Clubs leading the way at the local, state and national levels!**

Clubwomen of GFWC first began expressing interest in conservation in 1896. Advocacy for green spaces rapidly became a central concern. By 1902 we had created the Forestry Committee, the precursor to today's Conservation Committee. Clubwomen across the country became active participants in the fight for national parks, but three women stand out as leaders of the movement. Lovell White, Alta McDuffee, and Mary King Sherman were lynchpins of the conservation movement, and among the most pivotal figures in securing the legislation that formed the NPS. All three women held active leadership positions within GFWC.

**Mrs. Lovell White, president of the California Federation,** led the movement to save California's Big Trees. When the Calaveras Grove was bought by a timber company, White organized women throughout the country in protest, stating the devastating effects the loss of the trees would have on California's ecosystem, and it's quality of life. Mrs A.D. Sharon, the California Federation's Vice President, appealed to President William McKinley, asking for a bill to interfere with the destruction of the forest. Although Sharon convinced McKinley to send an appeal to congress, the bill for protection was never approved. Consequently, White and Sharon managed to collect 1.5 million signatures, petitioning congress to protect California's trees. The petition helped to garner an appeal from Theodore Roosevelt, and marked the first time that a message had been sent to Congress by an organization that was entirely run by women. Calaveras Big Trees State Park was created in 1954, over half a century after White and GFWC California begin their quest.

**Mrs Alta McDuffee's work with the New Hampshire General Federation of Women's Clubs** also demonstrated how GFWC's conservation efforts operated in sync at the state and local levels. Working with the state of New Hampshire and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, McDuffee, GFWC New Hampshire's State President, spearheaded the effort to save Franconia Notch from being developed for timber. Under McDuffee's guidance, GFWC raised over \$10,000 for the campaign to purchase 6,000 acres within the forest. McDuffee's diplomacy earned the project an endorsement from the GFWC of Maine, as well as donations from across the country.

Perhaps no clubwomen embodied the ethos of saving the wilderness better than **GFWC International Past President Mary King Sherman.** Sherman was appointed the International GFWC Conservation Chair in 1914, where she strongly advocated for the establishment of the National Park Service. Nicknamed "The National Park Lady," Sherman's administration theme was aptly dedicated to the preservation of the American wilderness. Sherman became an instrumental force in lobbying in Washington DC for the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915, and represented GFWC at the dedication of the Rocky Mountain National Park. Sherman also campaigned for the Grand Canyon National Park and by the end of her service in 1920 as GFWC Conservation Chair she had helped guide the formation of six more national parks. Sherman tirelessly threw the full support of GFWC behind the creation of the National Park Service, which we all know became a reality on August 25, 1916. From 1916 to today, GFWC has continued our proud tradition of advocating for the formidable work accomplished by the National Park Service, and we are still promoting their conservation efforts. Thanks to the sacrifices made by our own GFWC clubwomen and those who care about our environment, there are now hundreds of parks nationwide available for people to visit and to enjoy the natural beauty of America.



★Mona Gregersen, GFWC-MN Education Chair  
shares her information with us. . .

Get Involved with HOBY



**Did you know?** Between May and June of 2017, 10,000 tenth grade students from across the country will converge at one of 70 State Leadership Seminars to explore and develop their leadership talents. They return from the program engaged and inspired to become change leaders in their communities.

Dear Mona Gregerson,

I am excited to reach out to you today about GFWC's only Education Partner: HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership). Since 1958, HOBY has been providing life-changing leadership training to high school sophomores across the country. HOBY also provides adults with opportunities to make a significant impact on the lives of youth by volunteering.

**How Your Club Can Get Involved**

**Volunteer at the Seminar.** HOBY needs you! Even though the Seminars are not until next year, they need leaders today as members of their boards and planning committees.

**Sponsor a student or make a donation in any amount.** GFWC's support is critical to many HOBY Seminars. Please download the HOBY-GFWC Donation Form to find the right level at which your club is willing to support the program.

**Fulfill their wish lists.** Each Seminar needs tons of supplies to run operations and provide training materials, snacks, and more for each student. Get your HOBY Seminar's specific wish list and conduct a collection drive.

**Spread the word about HOBY.** Registration for the 2017 State Leadership Seminars is now open, and the 2017 Sophomore Registration Kit have arrived at schools. Please reach out to your local high schools to let them know about GFWC's endorsement and support of the HOBY program. Also, let them know if you're willing to sponsor students.

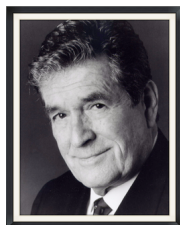
Sunshine Navarro Shively is the GFWC Partnership Manager for HOBY. For convenience, replying to this email connects you directly to her. Email Sunshine about local volunteer opportunities and wish lists. She can also provide you with materials or connect you with your sponsored HOBY Ambassador for your next club meeting.

To reach me directly, email me at [cas1231@verizon.net](mailto:cas1231@verizon.net).

Best regards,

Chris Sienkielewski  
GFWC Education Chairman

**PS: Please share this email with your clubmembers!**



**Hugh O'Brian**

4/19/1925 - 9/5/2016

HOBY suffered a great loss at the passing of its founder, Hugh O'Brian. Hugh was directly involved in developing the partnership between GFWC and HOBY. GFWC is honored to partner with HOBY, raising money for scholarships that allow high school sophomores to attend Leadership Seminars.

"Hugh O'Brian was an incredible leader whose legacy of empowering young people will live on. We are extremely proud to partner with HOBY, an organization where Hugh's vision came to life. He will truly be missed and remembered for his lifetime of service," said GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea.



★ GFWC-MN President, Pat Mumm Reports on her trip to  
GFWC International in Washington DC



Three Minnesota GFWC club women attended the GFWC International Board of Directors Meeting on August 25-28. Pat Mumm; Karen Kaler, GFWC International Membership Committee Member; and Laura Christopherson, GFWC International Communications & Public Relations Committee Member. From the time they arrived on Thursday afternoon until they boarded the plane home, it sounds like they were super

busy! Thursday evening from 6PM – 9PM was a Social and Dinner Meeting. Friday morning they boarded a bus at 8:15 and traveled to the State Department. They had briefings until it was time to leave for lunch at the GFWC Headquarters. After lunch they were transported to the Capital Visitors Center for a tour and then on to the Library of Congress. They barely made it back to the hotel in time to attend the 7PM – 9PM Board of Directors Dinner. Saturday morning Pat kicked off her day with the State Presidents Meeting from 9:00 – 12:15, then the Board of Directors Luncheon Meeting, and finally an afternoon Regional Meeting before everyone recessed for an evening on their own. Sunday started at 9:00AM with a Brunch Meeting and more reporting and invitations to regional meetings.

Pat was so impressed with our regional presidents and comments: "They are so very creative!" Pat goes on to say, "It was an extremely exhausting but such a very rewarding experience. International President Sheila Shea said to us, 'I feel like I'm the engineer of a run-away train and there's no way to stop it! I hope you are enjoying the ride as much as I am!' We came away from our trip with lots of great information, we learned a lot, and met fascinating women from all across the nation. It was great getting to know the GFWC Officers and Headquarters Staff and I am happy to report that GFWC International First Vice President, Marian St. Clair will be our guest at our 2016 GFWC-MN State Convention in Bloomington."

Pat ends her report by saying, "It was a great trip but I was really glad to be home again! I really don't like to fly so I really stress out for a long time before the flight. I was really glad to step off the plane and be back on solid ground in Minnesota!" Hummm?. . . Sounds like our 'fearless leader' might have a fear of flying?. . . or is it a fear of not staying in the sky flying? ☺

★QUICK TIPS ON GFWC MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING

**From Jean Walker, GFWC-MN President Elect & Membership Chair**

As we start our new year, please remember "Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter". GFWC is one of the largest women's non-profit volunteer organizations in the world and we are dedicated to service in our communities and our state. If the GFWC-MN Clubs are not here in (10) years who will be around to help our communities? It is imperative that we keep recruiting new members and new clubs, and stop the decline or we will not be around to help our communities.

Listed below are a few tips to help recruit new members and keep your current members: ✓Ask friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, or teachers to join. ✓Keep asking, sometimes life circumstances change. ✓Hold a recruitment event in your community. ✓Advertise by leaving information in doctor's offices, beauty shops, churches, and businesses. ✓Advertise by wearing your pin or GFWC emblematic apparel. It can start a conversation. ✓Develop an elevator speech. ✓Create a club website and Facebook page. ✓Communicate through a monthly newsletter and email alerts. ✓Assign a seasoned member to mentor a new member. ✓Try combining newer members with seasoned members as co-presidents or club co-chairs. ✓Offer transportation options to those who don't drive. ✓Get members interested and

(continued on Page 6)



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involved in district, region, state, and national conventions. ✓Keep your club meetings interesting and informative. ✓Involve members by using their skills and talents. Always ask member's for their input. Be flexible to the needs of your members. ✓Reward accomplishments. ✓Give pins and certificates for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50 year anniversaries. ✓Feature your members in the GFWC-MN quarterly newsletter. ✓Don't be afraid to try new things. Don't get boring and stuck in "We always do it this way." ✓Do yearly surveys to see what type of meetings your members want. ✓Educate members yearly on the benefits of belonging to GFWC and their goals. ✓Make sure your club members are subscribing to News & Notes and Clubwoman Magazine.

As you start your year each club should have a recruitment goal, do you have your goal set? Here is the recruitment goal for GFWC – A GFWC member who recruits: 5 to 9 new members receive a white star pin, 10-14 new members a red star, 15-19 new members a blue star, 20-24 new members a silver star, 25-29 new members a gold star, 30-34 new members receive a white circle to be worn behind the star pin, 35-39 new members a red circle to be worn behind the star pin, 40-44 new members a blue circle to be worn behind the star pin, 45-49 new members a silver circle to be worn behind the star pin, and 50+ new members a gold circle to be worn behind the star pin. ★ Send me the name of your club recruiter and the names and contact information of the new members and I will fill out the paperwork and order your pins from GFWC.

As the GFWC-MN Membership Chair, I will have a gift at the 2016 State Convention for the club that recruits the most members. It will be a special gift that will benefit your whole club for their excellent work on recruiting. If you have any questions concerning membership, grants, or applications to initiate a new club, please feel free to contact me by email or cell phone. If I do not know the answer I will find out and get back to you – Jean Walker, 426 E Ross Avenue, Warren, MN 56762, [jmwalker1992@hotmail.com](mailto:jmwalker1992@hotmail.com), Cell:218-686-1829, Home: 218-745-6712

### ★ LOTS OF GREAT NEWS FROM THE WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT CLUBS! ★



**West Central District Clubs GFWC Potpourri Glenwood, and Starbuck Study Club GFWC met to get plans underway for their 2017 Annual District Convention next spring.** It will be April 22nd in Starbuck at the Community Center. Lots of interesting topics were discussed for their main speakers and other activities for the day. They want to make it a very informative day as well as have time for all the district club members to socialize and get to know each other.



★ GFWC Starbuck Study Club co-sponsored "National Night Out Against Crime", on Tuesday, August 2nd in Starbuck with the Police Department, Chamber of Commerce and the VFW Men's and Women's Auxiliaries.

It was held at the Starbuck Historical Depot and was open to residents in neighborhoods throughout the City of Starbuck and across the nation. Club members furnished cookies, assisted in serving a meal and had a booth to advertise GFWC and their club. Two of the club members pictured (upper left) are 'Neighborhood Watch Captains' in the Starbuck community and assisted during the event.



★ The Starbuck Study Club women assisted with sorting, hanging and setting up tables for the 'Clothing Swap' sponsored by Starbuck Horizons. It was an event where folks donated their gently used clothes for other folks to come in and get clothing they could use.



★ GFWC Lac qui Parle Valley Study Club of Madison, MN is a shining example of how 'partnering' in your community is always a success! On September 28th, LPVSC served a Spaghetti Lunch at the VFW for the people of Madison as a fundraiser. They received a \$250.00 donation from Thrivent Financial which paid for groceries, Cargill paid for the hamburger, and the American Dairy Association furnished the dairy products. Everyone who attended had a great lunch and were asked for an in-kind donation. LPVSC made \$600.00 that will be donated to various community projects. Every club member was involved in some way on this project. Club President, Judie Rosendahl is proud to say, "We all came together and worked hard on this project that will benefit many people of the Madison Community"

★ GFWC Potpourri Glenwood hosts an annual gathering of all the other Pope County Clubs. Three clubs rotate yearly hosting the county gathering and it is always a great opportunity to come together and meet each other. This year the gathering was in October on the exact day that Pope County was celebrating their 150th Anniversary! GFWC Potpourri members planned this special anniversary part/gathering with Ann Grandy, Curator of the Pope County Historical Society. Ann showed a video of the county's hallmark sites along with an animated storytelling of an Indian princess and the two tribes that once occupied the area.

(Pictured Left) An anniversary cake was served by Marj Lang & Colleen Gandrud (Pictured Right, L. to R.) Sharon Larson, Vera Finnes, and Ann Grandy.





★ **★ GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Club Held a 'Learning & Commitment' Rally on Aug. 22nd.** August started their year with an increasing or refreshing knowledge of GFWC. Present was Sherry Wellman, MN Chair of the Jennie Award. She eloquently shared with the group her personal reasons for belonging to GFWC. They were also honored to have GFWC-MN President Pat Mumm present to install their club's new officers and historian. After the officers and historian pledged a commitment to their office, Pat gave each one of them an angel as a symbol of their dedicated leadership. With meaningful information and officers ready to lead, the club looks forward to the coming year!



(Pictured L. to R.) are Vera Finnes, Historian; Donna Hahn, Co-President; Pat Mumm; Yvonne Anderson, Co-President; Sharon Larson, Secretary; and Barb Odden, Treasurer.

★ **★ West Central District Held Two Club Presidents Sessions in September.** These sessions were the perfect opportunity for all (14) clubs to meet each other, communicate, connect, share information and ask questions. It was also a chance to see the district's historical scrapbook and learn about following the district's historical guidelines.



(Pictured Left) are Joan Herron of Glenwood and Darlene Femrite, District President looking over the district's scrapbook. (Pictured Right) are Pat Mumm, GFWC-MN President and Mary Lahtola, Starbuck Study Club President enjoying one of the session getting acquainted with everyone.

★ **★ Sharon Medbery sends us news from the GFWC Progress Study Club of Browns Valley.** . . This year's focus of study is the White House Cabinet Departments. So far we have studied the departments of Agriculture, State, and Attorney General. At the October 13 meeting, members had the rare experience of visiting with Carmen LeClair, who works as a Foreign Services Officer at the United States Embassy in Moscow. Officer LeClair's mother, Jan LeClair, provided the technological expertise to make this possible. Also, Officer LeClair is the granddaughter of a long-time member and club Vice President, Phyllis Johnson.

Our community-based projects include hosting an annual bingo party at the Browns Valley Health Center, providing Christmas gifts to health care residents, and playing cards at the health center to provide funds for the local food shelf. Club members Carol Lenssen and Phyllis Johnson have been playing cards with health center residents weekly for many years.

Educational contributions include monetary donations to the Browns Valley City Library summer reading program, providing cookies and assistance to the library during National Library Week, and giving a reference book (usually a dictionary and atlas, respectively) to the Browns Valley Middle School spelling bee and geography bee winners.

A special educational project for the past two years has just been completed. It is an 'Oral History Book'. It was a cooperative effort between our club's Oral History Committee and Browns Valley School's seventh grade class, along with the Beardsley-Browns Valley sixth grade classes of 1994, '95, and '96. The project started with Janna Borgheiinck and Sharon Medbery obtaining permission from previous students to reprint interviews that had been published at that time. The next phase was conducting classroom interviews of current local senior citizens. Our committee members generated a list, contacted prospective interviewees, and worked with the language arts teacher to conduct the interviews. Following the interviews, students wrote reports, which were then edited for publication by our Club History Committee. Once everything was ready for publication, the committee designed the cover and arranged for the school staff to print the book. The final result was a wonderful well-received book of (99) interviews that was available for the Browns Valley's Sesquicentennial Celebration in June, 2016.

★ **★ Three GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Clubwomen Helped Honor October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

Three club women helped serve lunch to the walkers of the 'March on Violence' sponsored by Someplace Safe. Someplace Safe is a nonprofit organization working to eliminate violence in West Central Minnesota and are dedicated to serving victims and survivors of domestic violence. The walk down main street Glenwood brought out many Minnewaska High School students from the 'Students Against Destructive Decisions Club' as well as other concerned citizens. The walk ended at the Grand Stay Hotel for lunch and violence awareness information. A Pope County Someplace Safe Advocate spoke about the regional 'Clothes Line Display' (decorated shirts are hung on a line depicting lives lost to domestic violence) and thanked those participating in this event. An area mother (whose daughter's life was lost to domestic violence) encouraged anyone feeling alone to seek help.



Pictured serving are (L.) Marj Lang and (R.) Barb Odden. Not pictured is Margaret Warner, who was a server and the club coordinator.

★ **★ Sue Lemmer sends us news from GFWC Litchfield Woman's Study Club.** . .

Our club has nine meetings each year, taking the summers off. This year we have scheduled a variety of programs for our meetings that includes speakers from our community. We also have planned a trip to the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud and our annual luncheon at the Spicer Castle. The luncheon is an event where we invite prospective new members to gather with us and learn about GFWC and hopefully join our club.

Our October meeting was a 'guest day' at Peter's on Lake Ripley in Litchfield. This year we had seven guests in attendance. Our speaker was Karla Rick, who organizes "The Hope for Our City" that distributes food in Litchfield every Wednesday. Mostly donated food is trucked to Willmar and from there distributed to about 30 different towns. Karla and her husband transport the food in a 26' trailer from Willmar to Litchfield where volunteers unload the truck and bag over 325 individual shares for distribution. A share of food can be purchased in advance for \$2 and there are no income guidelines to purchase a share. The items that are included in the share vary each week and usually consist of four to seven items that include bread, fruits, vegetables, canned goods, dairy, and sometimes sweets. It can also be items like water, duct tape or body butter. It is a new surprise every week! There is no advertising for this event, it is all word-of-mouth and it has really grown in the two years it has been held at the First Lutheran Church. It is estimated that the average household is 3.1 people and with over 325 shares each week that means over 900 people are getting help from Hope for Our City.