



The President's 2017 – 2018 Winter Newsletter November - January



COME BUILD WITH US!

Happy New Year!



Greetings from the GFWC-MN President, Pat Mumm. . .

★ Club presidents, I hope that you have all mailed in your '2017 Annual Club' reports and maybe even had some fun doing it? We do so much good work around the state, this is our time to shout about it! I am anxious to get all of your reports from Jennell so I can see what you have been up to. Thank you for your hard work and time to do this, it is very much appreciated.

★ Are you using all your GFWC resources, tools and manuals available to you? They can tell you **anything** you might want to know about GFWC! Information, contacts, and access to all this great GFWC stuff has been scattered throughout this newsletter. Check them out! You can find out about our history, our GFWC programs, get ideas, find important dates, or learn about the GFWC awards, contests, and grants. . .the list goes on and on. I must admit I am a bit 'electronically challenged' so if I can find the manuals and navigate the websites, trust me, so can you. If you have trouble, just ask a grandchild for help.. that's what I do!

★ Are you starting to think about the **2018 State Convention in New Ulm**? We are going to have a lot of fun starting with a tour to some of the most interesting things in New Ulm (see Barb Dietl's article on page 2 for the tour details). We will come back from the tour and jump right into the LEADS Workshop. ✓We have lots of surprises planned including a visit from the "Narren of New Ulm". These devilish characters will make you laugh! ✓See Linda Blue's article on page 2 for information on the fundraising. ✓Don't forget to send Lucy Larson your obituary information for the memorial service (see Lucy's article on page 2 for details). ✓2018 is the year that new GFWC-MN State Officers will be elected at the convention. Check out pages 3 and 4 to meet the nominated 2018-2020 State Officers. What a great line-up! ✓We have picked a great spot for the convention. We will be staying at the "Best Western Plus/New Ulm Convention Center", 2101 South Broadway 56073, 507-359-2941. ✓So, **mark your calendar for April 20th through 22nd** and I hope to see you there!

★ Don't forget your District Convention!

Here is the schedule for the GFWC-MN Board Officers who will be attending your 2018 District Convention:

Central District in Sauk Centre – **Jean Walker**, President Elect
East Central in Bloomington – **Pat Mumm**, President
NE District in Grand Rapids – **Pat Mumm**, President
NW District in Underwood – **Nancy Salmi**, Secretary
SE District in Henderson – **Pat Mumm**, President
SW District in Tracey – **Jennell Johnson**, 1st Vice President
West Central in Benson – **Pam Mithun**, Treasurer

IMPORTANT NOTE to the District Presidents – Please contact your GFWC-MN Board Officer listed above and give her your convention information. They will need to know what time, where, and what you would like them to do. Let them know if you would like them to install your new District Officers.



Mark Your Calendar!

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

April 24th – Federation Day
 Commemorates the founding of GFWC

July 27 – 28, 2018
GFWC-MN Fall Council
Little Falls, MN

September 20 – 23, 2018
GFWC Mississippi Valley
Regional Conference
Grand Island, NE

June 23 – 26, 2018
GFWC International Convention
St. Louis, MO

2018 GFWC-MN District Conventions

April 07 – Central, Sauk Centre
 April 17 – East Central, Bloomington
 April 04 – Northeast, Grand Rapids
 April 07 – Northwest, Underwood
 April 07 – Southeast, Henderson
 April 07 – Southwest, Tracey
 April 07 – West Central, Benson



GFWC Membership Quarterly

Club presidents should be receiving this Quarterly in their mail. The focus lately has been Membership Recruitment, which is helpful for planning recruitment strategies and events. The issues are full of ideas and themes for recruitment events and how to plan them, strategies for finding potential new members to invite and bring to these events, and ideas for communication with potential members after events. Club presidents, please share the GFWC Membership Quarterly with your club. **If you are a club president and you are not receiving the GFWC Membership Quarterly, please email Melanie Gisler at mgisler@gfwc.org**



★ Is this New Ulm's "Herman the German"? . . .No! It's Southeast District President, Barbara Diet!!! Barb would like to invite everyone to come join the fun at the **2018 GFWC-MN State Convention in New Ulm!** As part of the convention, she would like to announce that there will be a "Historical City Tour" on Friday, April 20th. Among the many sites, the tour will include seeing the famous Herman Monument and the Schell's Brewing Company with taste testing. Although beer is not Barbara's favorite, 1919 Root Beer is!! The tour starts at 1:00 pm and the cost is anticipated to be around \$16.00 for an experienced tour guide and bus. Look for the sign-up box on the Convention Registration Form. Barb says, "Please come with me and explore beautiful New Ulm. It will be a great time and a wonderful way to kick-off the convention this year."



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

April 23, 2018



★ **Lucy Larson, GFWC-MN Chaplain & Music Chair has an important message for all Club & District Presidents** regarding the Memorial Service at the 2018 GFWC-MN State Convention on April 20-22 in New Ulm.

Before March 15, 2018 – all memorial announcements with a photo (if possible) should be sent to Lucy Larson, **1764 Leisure World, Meza, AZ 85206** (Phone: 480-969-1255).

After March 15, 2018 – all memorial announcements with a photo (if possible) should be sent to Lucy Larson, **P.O. Box 151, Elmore, MN 56027** (Phone: 507-943-3860 or Cell: 507-525-3510).

Lucy does not have access to a computer so all announcements must be submitted by "paper mail". Please include the name of the club; how many years in the club; all club, district & state offices she held; and any club interests she had.

Don't forget to also send an announcement copy to Karla Mayhew, GFWC-MN Newsletter Editor (karlamayhew@comcast.net).



★ **Linda Blue, GFWC-MN 2nd Vice President and GFWC-MN Fundraising Chair has a message for us. . .**

I am sure that everyone is planning their fundraising event, or events for this year. This is one thing that all clubs participate in, and from the reports I have seen we all have a lot of fun with it. Just a few comments on successful fundraisers: ✓Fundraising begins with people. People give money to people, not necessarily causes or organizations. ✓Creating a successful fundraiser includes an energetic & enthusiastic chair, analyze your goals, then build your committee and motivate your club. ✓Project selection involves considering things like costs, and community needs. Do not forget to consider two of our GFWC Partners: Terri Lynn Nuts and Flower Power.

As a GFWC state organization, we also have fundraising goals we try to achieve every year. So far we have been able to reach our goals because of all of the support we have from our membership and our districts. This year we have to raise \$2,000 to meet our budget goal, and I know we can do it!

This year we are going to try something new for the 'Lucky Bucks' auctions at the State Convention. . . We are asking for you to bring (or send) to our State Convention different types of donated auction items than in the past. Those of you with special talents or hobbies, which from what I have seen is every GFWC member, to bring something you have created for the lucky bucks fundraiser. If you can or preserve food, then send that; if you sew, knit or quilt send something you have made; if you are into photography send that; if you bake send something – I think you get the idea. We have had a few hand or homemade items in previous years, and they always seems to be the most popular and bring in the most money. Of course, we will always appreciate the wine donations! I want to thank everyone in advance for your participation. It is greatly appreciated, whether it is in bringing donations, or purchasing tickets. Be sure to bring plenty of extra bucks to bid on our Lucky Bucks auctions and to buy tickets for the baskets!

We are asking the Districts to again support us with their gift baskets. The baskets help us tremendously in meeting our GFWC-MN fundraising goals. Every year the basket themes show such great imagination and creativity, I can't wait to see what you bring this year!

Lastly, I just received a new packet from Terri Lynn Nuts that includes the newest price list. If anyone would like a copy of the prices, send me an email and I will email it back to you. If you are interested in using one of our GFWC partners, the contact information is in the Club Manual on the GFWC website. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Linda Blue – Lblue1982@yahoo.com or 218-935-2411.

MEET THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018 – 2020 GFWC-MN STATE OFFICERS

Jean Walker, President

Jean has been a member of GFWC Mawani Club since 1993. She has been Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and on several club committees. At the Northwest District Level, she served as the President (2006-08). Currently, Jean is GFWC-MN President Elect and has served as the GFWC-MN 1st Vice President and GFWC-MN Treasurer for (4) years. She is also a 2010 LEADS Graduate.

Outside of GFWC, Jean is the Office Manager at Evergreen Implement Co. in Warren and her community service extends to The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #27; Treasurer of the Hospital and Home Auxiliary; Co-Chair for the Marshall County Relay for Life; volunteer at the Good Samaritan Center; and she belongs to Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Jean is married to John, they have one son Michael married to Heather, and one granddaughter Arietta.

Jennell Jorgenson-Johnson, President Elect

Jennell has been a member of the GFWC Silver Lake Woman's Club for fourteen years. As an active GFWC member, she has served as Club President, Club Secretary/Treasurer, SE District Scholarship Chair, SE District Vice President, SE District President, and GFWC-MN Second Vice President. Currently, she holds the office of GFWC-MN First Vice President. Along with GFWC, Jennell served on the Silver Lake City Council and she continues to volunteer and chair the Silver Lake Thanksgiving Dinner. Peeling 75 pounds of potatoes doesn't scare her! Serving dinner family-style to 190 plus people is a fantastic way to spend the holiday with close and extended family. As an active donor for the Memorial Blood Center, Jennell currently donates platelets every three or four weeks and has passed the twenty-gallon mark!

Jennell and husband Tim, have one daughter Samantha. Samantha likes to spend time with her mom, so she became an active club member at the young age of eight! The family has lived in Silver Lake for 16 years. They have spent many hours restoring their Arts and Crafts home, which was 100 years old in 2013. Jennell and her family have hosted five foreign exchange students, from China, Poland and three from Brazil. Her daughter considers them her sisters from around the world. Jennell enjoys traveling most anywhere, but always loves returning to Europe. In her spare time, she likes to read, write, shoot photography and ride her Harley Davidson. In May of 2017 she received her black belt in Shotokan Karate!

Jennell was born in Perham, MN. She grew up on a dairy farm, which is being run by her brothers. After graduating from Perham High School, Jennell went on to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. She received three Bachelor of Arts degrees in English, History, and Humanities. Then she went on to do one year of graduate school at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Today, the Best Buy Corporate keeps Jennell busy working. She has been employed there for 19 plus years as a Transportation Analyst.

Linda Blue, 1st Vice President

Linda grew up in Nashville, TN and always worked in the insurance industry. After a long career, she retired as a vice president of a world-wide insurance brokerage firm. Linda met her husband in TN and in 1982 they were married. He had two sons and a daughter who she is happy to call her own. They now have (7) grandchildren and (1) great-granddaughter. While in Nashville, Linda and her husband were active members of the Donelson Heights Methodist Church. Linda's husband is a Mason and a Shriner and they both went through all the offices in their chapter of Eastern Star. In 2002, Linda and her husband retired and they decided to move to his home state of Minnesota. They built a home in Waubun to be near his family.

In 2004 Linda joined the GFWC Library Club that meets in Mahanomen. She has served as Club President, (2) terms as Club Secretary and chaired or worked on all the club's committees. Linda has served as the Northwest District President, President Elect and (2) terms as the District Secretary. She has also chaired the GFWC-MN State Public Issues Committee and the GFWC-MN Nominating Committee. Linda currently holds the office of GFWC-MN 2nd Vice President and is the GFWC-MN Fundraising Chair. Linda is also a 2016 LEADS Graduate.

2nd Vice President Diane Hannah

Diane has been a member of the GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club since 2014. She has served as Club Secretary and the Club Leadership Committee Chair. She is currently her Club's Conservation Committee Chair; the Northeast District President Elec.; and the GFWC-MN Leadership Chair. Diane is also a 2015 LEADS Graduate.

Diane works at 'Absolute Bail Bonds' and 'Maverick Auto Signings'. Both are "24/7 On Call" positions. But, thankfully these two jobs are sporadic, which gives her time to volunteer as Treasurer for Itasca Vintage Car Club; Co-Chair for Women of the ELCA at the Grand Rapids' St. Andrews Lutheran Church; Nominating Committee

member for Living Waters Conference of Women of the ELCA. Diane also is a volunteer at the Community Cafe in Grand Rapids, Grace House, and Habitat for Humanity. As a member of the Itasca County Historical Society, Diane assists with the partnership events between the women's club and the society which included the '125 Years of Fashion' Event in 2015.

Diane grew up in Ortonville, MN, graduated 1968, and attended the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. She and her husband Ronald live in Bovey, MN. They are avid RVers and spend a few weeks every year camping out. Also, every year they travel to Tacoma, WA to visit their son Keith. They also have a son, Brian who lives in the Minneapolis area. They have three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren that enlighten their lives. Ron and Diane are very active members of the Itasca Vintage Car Club and are proud of their three collector cars: a 1963 Pontiac Grand Prix, a 1966 Pontiac LeMans, and a 1977 Corvette. They love going to car shows and enjoy the Little Falls Car Show, Swap Meet and Craft Fair.



Pam Mithun, Treasurer

Pam is our current GFWC-MN Treasurer and is running for a second term. She has been a very active member in the GFWC Morris Students Club for seven years and has served as Club Treasurer and is currently the Club President. Pam has also served as the West Central District President.

Pam resides in Morris, MN with her husband Dean and three kids, Zachary (23), Morgan (15), and Jayden (12). Morgan, at the age of thirteen started the GFWC Morris Golden Star Juniorette Club. It is the first juniorette club in MN and she is currently President of that club.

Along with her GFWC duties, Pam is the Treasurer for the Stevens County Chapter of 'Habitat for Humanity'. Also, she does volunteer work for her Church, and is willing to help out any other community group that might need her assistance. Pam was the bookkeeper at a local grocery store in town for fifteen years and has been owner and operator of a daycare for twenty years.



Diane Mangseth, Secretary

Diane has been a member of GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club for ten years. She has served as Club President, President Elect, and Historian, and has chaired and served on various club committees. She is currently the GFWC Northeast District President, and previously served as the District Home Life Chair. Diane initiated and is continuing with her club's "Inspirational Woman" Program, whereby she interviews club members, age 80 years or older, and compiles their written biography for the club history book. The interviewees also receive a gift certificate for a future luncheon meeting. This past year, Diane was selected to be the club's "Empowering Woman" and has always made an effort to attend the state conventions and workshops since becoming a member of GFWC. Diane states, "I will do my best if I am voted to be the state secretary for GFWC."

Diane is a graduate of Grand Rapids High School and the Minnesota School of Business. Her employment history includes five years as an executive secretary at Minnegasco in Minneapolis; one year with the Itasca County Sheriff Department; and thirty years with the State of Minnesota 9th Judicial District, Itasca County, Grand Rapids, as a deputy clerk, chief deputy clerk, and assistant court administrator. Diane's history as a courtroom clerk for many different judges included swearing in witnesses, the safekeeping of received exhibits, and thousands of hours of shorthand notes and transcribing courtroom minutes for the court records and the media. Her last nine years as a supervisor also included a position as a liaison with the State of Minnesota Court Interpreter Program. This position involved quarterly meetings at the Judicial Center in St Paul and working with the 17 counties in the Ninth Judicial District insuring that state certified interpreters were used for sign and foreign language court hearings.

Diane has been married to her husband, Bruce, for 51 years, and they have two daughters, Lisa, a software developer, and Kari, a paralegal. They also have one grandson, Mitch, a college student, who just turned 21 years of age.

As a retiree, for the past twelve years, Diane manages to keep busy serving as Co-Chair of the Women of ELCA at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. She serves as lector, altar guild, and helps on occasion in the church office. Her other hobbies include playing with several bridge groups, sewing, quilting, and canning. She also enjoys traveling. Diane is also involved with the Grand Rapids Friends of the Library, and the Itasca County Historical Society. When Diane's daughters were growing up, she was the 4-H Club Leader for their club, and they got involved in raising and showing quarter horses.



★ **The December edition of the WHRC Newsletter is now available!** The GFWC "Women's History & Resource Center" is excited to announce that the quarterly newsletter is open 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**



Convention Committee Chair, Karen Kaler's Latest Update on the GFWC 2018 Annual International Convention in St. Louis

It's hard to believe, but the 2018 Convention in St. Louis will be here in five short months! It is an exciting time, to be the very first Region to ever host a GFWC International Convention! I cannot stress enough that we need your help and great 'GFWC volunteer spirit' to make this convention a success!!

★ **We still need lots of volunteers in St. Louis** to work the Welcome Tables, Tours, Centerpiece Placement, Door Pages, etc. etc. What a great time to get involved! For the opening night banquet, we will need (70) ladies to serve as 'table hostesses'. Throughout the week, we will need door pages, centerpiece arrangers, tour bus helpers, welcome table workers, fund raising table workers, and much more.

✓If you have any questions or would like to volunteer –

PLEASE CONTACT Kay James at 218-732-6554, email: kaydon@paulbunyan.net.

★ **We still really need lots of goodies for our Convention "Welcome Table" in St. Louis!** If you have connections to companies/ organizations that would be willing to supply us with anything from pens, post-it notes to granola bars, you name it!, please contact them to see if they would be able to donate items. We will take any quantity you are able donate. Then let me know, so that we can get the items from you, keep track of the items and also send out thank you notes. You can also bring your items to the GFWC-MN State Convention in April!

★ **We are still looking for people interested in taking a luxury charter bus to St. Louis.** In order to determine if we have enough members to make this happen, I am asking for a firm commitment by **April 1st**. This will include sending a **deposit check for \$50.00**. Checks should be made out to **Karen Kaler** and mailed to 13036 Falcons Way, Savage, MN 55378.

Here is some bus information: Prices are subject to change depending on how many members/boosters sign-up for the bus. There are bathroom facilities on the bus. Please remember that if you drive to St. Louis, there is a daily hotel parking fee of \$17.00-\$25.00. From the Twin Cities, it is about a (9) hour drive.

Departure Date: June 20, 2018 – 8 am

Departure Location: Burnsville 'Park & Ride' off of Hwy 13 and 35W

Return Date: June 27, 2018 – 8 am

Cost: (30) riders \$174.00/person, (25) riders \$209.00/per person, (20) riders \$261.00/per person

✓If you have any questions or would like to sign-up for the bus –

PLEASE CONTACT Karen Kaler at Cell: 952-237-6020, email: karenkaler0505@gmail.com



★ **The GFWC Lac qui Parle Study Club donated pajamas to a domestic violence shelter.**

Coleen
Anderson
From
Safe Avenues

Club
Member
Marilyn
Isfeld

As one of their signature projects, GFWC Lac qui Parle Study Club chose to have club members purchase and donate new pajamas for women and children housed at 'Safe Avenues' in Wilmar. Pictured left is Coleen Anderson from Safe Avenues accepting all the lovely and cozy pajamas collected by club member, Marilyn Isfeld. Safe Avenues serves Lac qui Parle County and provides, among other services, emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Victims fleeing from domestic or sexual violence often leave with only the clothes on their backs. Safe Avenues has opened a location in Madison, MN too.

★ **The GFWC Progress Study Club of Browns Valley had a busy year with their studies and volunteering!** This dedicated West Central District club was founded and federated in 1900. The club has a long history of study and of home life and education volunteerism. The average age of their energetic three members is 74½ and the current President is Mary Hansen.

The club began its year of study by completing their 'White House Cabinet' Reports. The three club members set up a rotation schedule so that each member could study and report on five cabinet positions during the past 1½ years. Now that all fifteen cabinet departments have been covered, a new field of study has been launched: Liberal Arts Colleges in Minnesota. Colleges to be reported on include Macalester, Gustavus Adolphus, Hamline, St. John's, St. Olaf, and St. Benedict's. Roll Calls usually are directly related to the subject of study. Following each meeting, an article which contains a summary of the study club's report is submitted to the Valley News, Browns Valley's weekly newspaper.

As an important 'Home Life' project, the club Provide Christmas gifts to residents of the Browns Valley Health Center, a local nursing home. Playing cards with residents has been an on-going activity as well. The club also donated funds to the local food shelf. In addition, club members supported the Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner. All three members participated in the 'World Day of Prayer' too. This could be considered part of Education, but it was decided to include it in Home Life because it strengthens homemakers.

Educational contributions included monetary donations to the Browns Valley City Library's '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 winners of the Browns Valley Middle School's Spelling Bee and Geography Bee. Also, they logged in many volunteer hours with the 'Literary Coach' tutoring project at the Browns Valley School.

These three ladies are a true inspiration to all the clubs in Minnesota!



★ The GFWC West Suburban Women's Club celebrated the Holiday Season at their annual December Luncheon



The club ladies and their guests gathered at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Plymouth and started their fun with a holiday bake sale while enjoying some coffee and cranberry punch. Pictured above left is the Way & Means Committee selling and bagging all the yummy goodies. (Front L. to R.) Lorraine Prazich, Nancy Ford, Joan Haldeman (Back L. to R.) Committee Co-Chairs, Charli Johnson and Diane Nelson. Then it was time to be seated for a great lunch followed by being entertained (pictured above right) by the famous Handbell Ensemble "The Ding Dong Dollies". Dressed in festive costumes from countries around the world, the handbell musicians absolutely delighted everyone with their wonderful singing and ringing! Lastly, (pictured above center) the We Share We Care Committee Co-Chairs, Jamie McReynolds and Jean Dunn asked the club ladies to bring unwrapped 'Holiday Wish List' Items to be donated to the Home Free Domestic Violence Shelter. Jamie and Jean are happy to report that the members very generously donated items with a total value of \$1,700.00! Also in December, the club's Art & Architecture Group's spirits were bright attending a Holiday Afternoon Tea at the historic Saint Paul Hotel.

★ The GFWC Golden Valley Federated Women's Club has been one incredibly busy club!!

✓ Thus far, during the 2017-2018 administration year and under their President Barb Demavivas's leadership, the GFWC-GVFWC has welcomed eight new members!! The new members were presented with their GFWC pin and club membership book.

✓ Pictured right, on October 20th they hosted a successful "Celebrate Women" luncheon and fundraiser which featured a local speaker and author, Kim Kane. Kim presented a delightful and insightful message about the topic presented in her book, "Sparkle On. . . Aging in Gratitude." Also in the Fall, the club had a second successful fundraiser selling Bachman's gift cards. The money raised is donated to a scholarship for a high school senior and is contributed to community needs and services

✓ In October, the club members donated money and clothing to 'Sew Much Comfort' in cooperation with the Calvary Lutheran Church. And in November, club members donated and delivered personal care items to the Home Free Domestic Violence Shelter in their area.

✓ On November 18th, several members toured the 'Can Do Canines' Agency located in New Hope. Also, at one of their regular club general meetings they had a guest speaker from Can Do Canines along with one of their service dogs.

✓ A new special interest group was formed called 'The Movie Goers'. The group attended several movies at local theaters and then they gathered for supper or coffee afterwards.

✓ What's next for the club members? In January, they will be volunteering for a day of packing food for 'Feed My Starving Children' at the Calvary Church and in February they will also be packing food for the 'Kid Pack Program'. Their mission, to supply students and families in need with non-perishable, healthy yet fun food items for the weekend at no cost to the parents or school.



(L. To R.) Joan Russell, Club President Barb Demavivas, Marie Temple and Barbara Thompson



✓ The club partnered with the Citizens Independent Bank for their 2017 'Annual Toys for Tots' Drive collecting more than 400 toys. On December 14th, both club members and bank members appeared on the 4:00pm KARE 11 TV news program after presenting the toys to the Marines in the tent located at the TV station. (Pictured L. to R.) Barbara Thompson (GVFWC), Susan Nelson (Citizens Bank), Katie Cervenka (GVFWC), Dorree Adelman (GVFWC), Betty Faacks (GVFWC), Helen Goike (GVFWC), Barb Demavias (GVFWC President), Georgia Goodwin (GVFWC), Leah Burak (Citizens Bank), Tammy Andrews (Citizens Bank)



★ **The GFWC Bloomington Federated Woman's Club Celebrated their 55th Anniversary on November 15th.** The Club was founded on November 9, 1962 and federated on November 19, 1962 and they are still going strong! They are proud to have three charter members still active in the club, they are Jeanne Hansen, Lee Jaeger, and Joan Wilharm. They were happy to hear about their club's history as Diane Larson, a member since 1965, reminisced about the club's early years. As part of the celebration, they presented members with their GFWC Membership pins for their 10, 15, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of club service and commitment (these pins can be ordered online from the GFWC Marketplace website). Also, the club has begun welcoming their new GFWC-BFWC members with the beautiful GFWC of Minnesota State pin. Pictured above are some of the members who received their membership pins (L. to R.) Nancy Nowell, Holly Pierce, Joan Petroff, Rosemarie Lees, Gloria Strom, Shirley Clough, and Janet Howells.

In just four years GFWC will celebrate a century of owning & operating our historic Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the Capital Campaign Committee is doing all it can to ensure that the building will be preserved for generations to come. To date, nearly \$1 million has been pledged to the Campaign and substantial improvements are being made at Headquarters as a result. To further the goal of protecting GFWC's legacy, the Committee is inviting you to join the Capital Campaign Crew. Members of the crew will be easily identified at conferences and club meetings due to the hard hat pin on their lapel. The pins are provided as a show of the Committee's appreciation for donations of \$100 or greater. So be on the lookout for the generous clubwomen who have contributed to the Campaign and consider becoming one yourself. Any donation you choose to make will help sustain the property and programming of GFWC.



★ **In November, members of the GFWC Bloomington Federated Woman's Club** took boxes of donuts to the City of Bloomington Police Department to say "Thank You" to all the police officers for their dedicated service to their community. Pictured left with the officers are Janet Ste. Marie and Yvonne Gudim. Jackie Leeson, (the photographer) was also on hand.



★ **Once again the GFWC Edina Federated Women's Club** was able to combine fun at their Holiday Party with reaching out to those in need in their community. Club members very generously donated gift cards, money and holiday presents for Cornerstone, a nonprofit organization helping needy families fleeing violence. The combined value of their donations was \$1,805.00! Pictured are club members collecting the donations for delivery. (L. to R.) Birdie Rand, Rosie Gubrud, Karen Tortorici, Barb Waterston (love the Christmas sweater!) and Eunice Groschen.

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.

The GFWC Edina Federated Women's Club had an evening of "Moonlight and Music" at their annual FedFest Gala Fundraiser



On November 18th the club hosted another truly gala event at the Edina Country Club. The Acme Jazz Company entertained the guests throughout a wonderful evening of wine, cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent auction of fantastic items and experiences. The evening's awesome proceeds of \$52,090.00 will benefit three great organizations for young people; "66 West", "Oasis for Youth", and the "Edina Education Fund". Congratulations to GFWC-EFWC for the incredible success of their fundraiser!

★ Darlene Femrite, GFWC-MN's International Outreach Chair has a message for us.



Human trafficking was recognized on January 11th by wearing purple. Did you wear purple? UNICEF-USA, a GFWC partner, has great information in a recent email that addressed this inhumane and highly profitable activity! Trafficking thrives on ignorance so please spread the word in your clubs, your community, your schools and your families. Read the 5 points to become better informed. You are encouraged to view UNICEF's podcasts. Please check it out!

In June of 2014, Pat Stevermer and I heard an inspiring presentation by Becca Stevens from Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN regarding trafficking. We were at a national church women's gathering. I encourage you to check out Thistle Farms' website to become motivated by a person's vision that love and a lot of services heal women who have been trafficked along with other problems. Becca's program gives you a glimpse of the time and effort that goes into helping women get back their lives. This speaks to our signature project. Her work continues to be an inspiration to me.

★ Glenwood's Women's Club made the news in the Pope County Tribune!

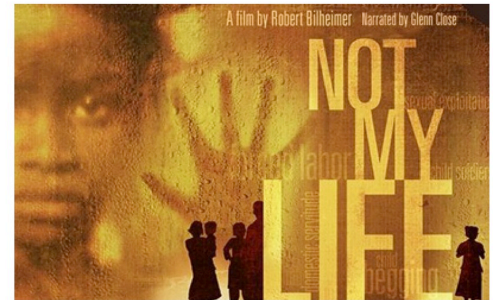
GFWC Potpourri celebrated the year at the Bickle House

Ann Bickle Heritage House board members (pictured) Sharon Larson (pictured) Sharon Larson and Pat Lepper annually invite their sister club women in December to come to Glenwood's historical gem to conclude their year. Pictured are several club women who found hats to wear from the ABHH collection and celebrated a year of service, enrichment and friendship in a Victorian Christmas setting. Each year the ABHH Christmas teas' themes change at which time many club women help under the direction of the board members. Besides discussing how the GFWC Potpourri members will financially support charities and organizations, the women suggest a favorite book or two at this event. This setting is not only beautiful but meaningful because Ann Bickle, the original owner of the home, was an exceptional volunteer. Her service to the community grew to starting hospital axillaries in the state. The ABHH is on the National Register of Historic Places.

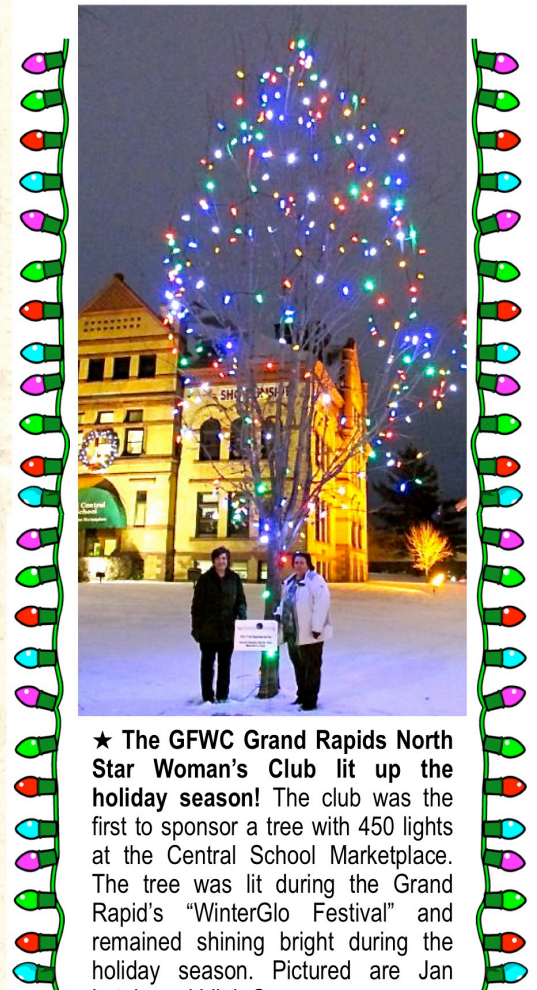


Contributed photos

General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is an international organization with a historic headquarters in Washington, D.C. A small sampling of their work: thousands of children are prevented from going hungry, domestic violence survivors receive needed support, and veterans across the county are acknowledged for their service. More information is available at www.gfwc. Visitors and new members are welcomed when the group reconvenes in April. Call Donna Hahn at 320-239-4884 or Yvonne Anderson at 320-870-0016.



★ GFWC Headquarters invites you to view "Not My Life" at your local Club Meeting. In response to their recent article on the documentary Not My Life, many clubwomen requested access to the film so they may host screenings. If you would like to download Not My Life, please contact GFWC's UNICEF Representative Mansi Mehta at mmehta@unicefusa.org. She will be happy to provide a link to the movie and the password to Vimeo for access. UNICEF's Not My Life Guide is also available to facilitate discussion about the film.



★ The GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Woman's Club lit up the holiday season! The club was the first to sponsor a tree with 450 lights at the Central School Marketplace. The tree was lit during the Grand Rapids' "WinterGlo Festival" and remained shining bright during the holiday season. Pictured are Jan Latola and Lilah Crowe.

★ **GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Woman's Club truly care!!** Their "*Buy Two Campaign*" headed by clubwoman, Pat Lepper, resulted in a huge basket of personal care items that were donated to Pope County's 'Someplace Safe' Office! Their campaign was simple and successful and an idea for all clubs. . .when you are out shopping for a personal care item for yourself, buy a second one to be later collected by your club and donated to domestic abuse victims in your area. GFWC-PGWC says they will be continuing their 'Buy Two' into the future.



Pictured right, club members supported Colleen Gandrud and Sharon Larson obtaining Thrivent Funds to purchase sheets and towels for the Someplace Safe clients! L. to R. are Donna Hahn, Jan Tostenson, Lois Maher, Elaine Christianson, Darlene Femrite, Margaret Warner, Pat Lepper, Virgene Baumgardt, JoAnn Peterson and Audrey Lommen.



The club ladies not only care for others, but they care about each other and their health! Barb Ostrander, (pictured left) led the women in some 'chair yoga' moves along with telling them about the philosophy and value of yoga. They were amazed how Barb uses yoga in her everyday professional life and the ladies realized, "*We should be able to do it too!*" She also gave them many free resources so they can pursue yoga on their own. Barb's mom, Lorie Billehus, is a GFWC member with the Starbuck Club.

Greetings from Mona Gregersen, GFWC-MN Education and ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Chair . . .



It's been bitterly cold and it's a great time to get curled up with a good book! Upon reading last year's 'education section' of the annual reports, I discovered that there are a number of members who belong to book clubs and there are a number of GFWC clubs that have book clubs within their memberships. I sure would like to count those books as part of my ESO report at the end of the year! Will you help me do that?

Some of you were undoubtedly present at last summer's GFWC-MN Fall Workshop to witness Kay James' recognition for reading and reporting on over one hundred books. My goal is to give out more GFWC state certificates and pins for reading. As a matter of fact, we have two members who will likely receive their pins at either the state convention in April or the fall workshop in July.

I would like to make your book reporting as absolutely easy as possible for you. Simply send me an email. Give me the title of the book, the author, and one or two sentences of why you would or would not recommend the book. I would be more than happy to keep track of the books you've read for you.

Have you read a good book lately that should be added to the 'ESO Book List'? I see it's been awhile since the list has been updated and recommendations are always welcome. If you would like to view the current book list, go to GFWC website, gfwc.org. Find the '*GFWC Resources*' tab at the top of the Home Page. Under that tab, you will see the letters of the alphabet. Simply click on 'E' and the current reading list will come up. Also, if you want to know about the history of the ESO Society or see the ESO Manual, go to the GFWC website's Home Page and pull down the "*What We Do*" Tab.

If you have any questions about the GFWC-MN (ESO) reading program, please feel free to email me at:

mona@hcinet.net Sincerely, Mona Gregersen



★ **This story will warm you up and have you dreaming of summer! The Starbuck Study Club GFWC members had an exciting community project.** Pictured is the beach along Lake Minnewaska and the Starbuck Beach House with a snack shack that has been closed for several years. Club members felt that the snack shack needed to operate again so they declared it as their Community Improvement Project (CIP). Many things were done in renovating the inside to get it ready for reopening and to get a Swim Club to manage it. The picture proves the club's success, look at all the customers enjoying their snacks! Along with the club, several people in the community got involved and contributed other fun things making the beach an attractive place to spend their summer days.



★ **ONE LAST REMINDER** from Pat Stevermer, GFWC-MN GFWC Community Improvement Program Chair. . . Has your club created a GFWC Community Improvement Project (CIP)? The contest period is **January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017**. Any project that you do that addresses a specific unique need within the community can become a CIP. You can to collaborate with GFWC clubs, partner organizations, professional or other membership organizations, government entities or other non-profit organizations in your community. **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.** I have already received one entry and I would love to receive more, so don't delay getting them in the mail. Good luck to all the clubs that made the extra effort to plan and complete a local project, that is what CIP is all about! A panel of judges will determine our state winners. Please note: The state winner's notebooks will not be returned to you and will be housed in the Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) in Washington DC., so don't forget to make a second copy for your club archives!

✓ The program awards are monetary prizes (3 per state/5 nationally) each year. 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.

Judging Criteria

Project selection – 25 points
Project development – 50 point
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**



★ **A quote from a local newspaper article. . . "The holidays were in full swing and the ladies from the GFWC Nevis Study Club were swinging!"** The club swung into action early in December by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Hugo's Family Marketplace. The giving continued by providing a hot lunch for the workers who were building a new Habitat for Humanity house in Park Rapids and by providing grocery gift cards for clients served by the Hubbard County Intervention Center. The club states. *"Giving really makes us swing!"* The Nevis Study Club can hardly wait until the New Year. 2018 will see the beginning of implementation of the club's new strategic plan which will focus on enhancing and sustaining environmental health within their community and environs. The club plans on working as a full partner on the new Muskie Park initiatives. As their reach grows they will be inviting new membership and welcome all snowbirds.

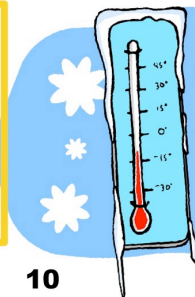
The **GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER** is a powerful tool for GFWC's public issues and advocacy efforts. Track bills, contact your local representative, and take action On issues germane to GFWC Resolutions. Go to the gfwc.org website to visit the Legislative Action Center and enroll to receive updates.



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:



SORRY! I received so many fantastic articles and pictures that they all wouldn't fit into this newsletter. But never fear, I have them ready for the next edition!! **THANK YOU** for your support and keep the news coming in!!



Wherever you go,
no matter what
the winter weather,
always bring your
own warmth and
SUNSHINE.