

★ **GFWC OF MINNESOTA NEWS** ★ **FALL EDITION** ★
★ **SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2019** ★



**GFWC
SUPPORTS
OUR STARS!**



Season's Greetings

From our GFWC-MN President, Jean Walker

Thank you District Presidents for doing a great job keeping your club presidents well informed and updated on the GFWC latest issues. Please keep up the good work moving forward into 2020.

My theme is "GFWC-MN Supports our Stars" and the stars to me are our Veterans, their families, and our Military. One of our two GFWC-MN projects has been to raise funds to send a veteran on an "Honor Flight" to Washington DC. Last year we did such a great job that we raised enough funds to send two veterans to Washington, DC. Our second project has been to support the "Eagles Healing Nest" in Redwood Falls/Sauk Centre and "Haven for Heroes" in Anoka by donating much needed supplies. The Eagles Healing Nest's mission is to provide assistance with the healing of the visible wounds of war carried by our service men and women. They currently house veterans from a weekend to years. The average stay is approximately six months before they soar home to their communities and families. Haven for Heroes provides transitional housing to service members and veterans, right now they have 3 cottages. We will be carrying these two projects into 2020.

GFWC-MN will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary at our 2020 State Convention. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in May of 2020 at Jackpot Junction in Morton. We are busy making plans to have an exciting convention and to also celebrate our 125 years of Federation. More convention information will be coming out soon. Since we are having our 125th Anniversary, our goal is to have 125 or more members attend the convention to help us celebrate. Mark your calendar and be one of the 125 or more! Our GFWC International Guest this year is Mary Ellen Brock our International President. Also, joining us is our GFWC MVR President, Kathleen Flock.

GFWC is dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. We have been around for a long time volunteering in our communities and we need to be around for the next 125 years! We have to get back to the basics and let everyone know 'Who We Are', 'What We Do' and 'Why We Matter'. So keep in mind that growing your club membership is very important. You just have to ask someone to join and take the time to spread the word of all the great things GFWC does for our communities and the world.

My wish goes out to all of our members to have a very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year with your family and friends. Safe travels if you will be traveling. Thank you all for all you do for GFWC of Minnesota.
Your sister in Federation, Jean Walker

Want to know absolutely everything about **GFWC**? Visit the Headquarter's website at: **www.gfwc.org** or connect to their other social media platforms:



GOT FACEBOOK?

Be a friend on
"GFWC of Minnesota"!!
Post your comments,
stories and photos!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



April 24th – FEDERATION DAY
Celebrate the founding of GFWC

GFWC MVR CONFERENCES
September 17 – 20, 2020, S. Dakota

GFWC-MN STATE CONVENTIONS
May 1 – 3, 2020, Morton, MN

GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTIONS
June 25 – 30, 2020 in Atlanta, GA

GFWC-MN FALL WORKSHOP
July 26 – 27, 2020 in Little Falls, MN

2020 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Southeast	March 28 – Winthrop
Southwest	April 18th – Sleepy Eye
Central	April 4th – Royalton
West Central	April 18th – Elbow Lake
East Central	April 7th – Bloomington
Northeast	April 1st – Grand Rapids
Northwest	April 18th – Thief River Falls



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

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

★**GFWC-MN Website Editor Linda Strong would like everyone to checkout the GFWC-MN website gfwcofmn.org for all the latest Minnesota news.** It's awesome! Hopefully, navigation of the site has become easier for viewers, and there is even a link to GFWC-MN Facebook on the front page! Linda is always looking for photos and updates from your club, district, or state. Send them to: **stronglinda1@gmail.com**. Please note, when sending photos, specify the names and the GFWC positions of the people in your photos.



★ GFMC-MN 1st Vice President, Linda Blue has an **IMPORTANT REMINDER** to all Club Presidents. . . Hello ladies. It's that time again, to get all of your information together for your club's **"2019 ANNUAL REPORT"**. **ALL CLUB REPORTS ARE DUE TO ME NO LATER THAN JANUARY 16, 2020.**

If you need a copy of the "GFMC Statistical Reporting Forms", you can get them on the gfmc.org website (look under the 'Club Manual' tab, and then drop down to 'Reporting'), or contact me and I can send them to you. And don't forget to include your "GFMC Grand Initiatives Form".

This is a perfect opportunity to brag about your club, do a narrative with a description of what your club did, include pictures if you want to. A category Narrative is not difficult to do, nothing complicated. Include how many club members were involved, how many hours it took and how you went about the project. Be sure to include the final result. Narratives are not mandatory, but if at all possible, I would like you to please do at least one narrative in your report. Remember it is your narratives that are used for the clubs to be recognized with achievement and creativity awards at the GFMC State and National Conventions.

I can't stress enough how important it is to document all the fine work our clubs are doing and get that information to our GFMC Headquarters. Don't want to do a narrative, that's perfectly fine, but please at least **take the time to fill out and send me your Statistical Report Forms** reporting all your projects, contributions, hours, etc. I have heard a rumor that in the past some clubs have not sent in their report because they do not want to be compared to other clubs. I sincerely hope this is a false rumor. Please know that these reports are strictly a recorded document of your club's time and commitment to GFMC and your community and is never used whatsoever for any type of comparison.

Lets make this the year that 100% of our GFMC-MN clubs send in their report!

Have questions? Your first report? Do not hesitate to contact me or any of the GFMC-MN Officers or Program Chairs. We are all here to help you navigate through the process. Email or paper mail your report to me:

Linda Blue, GFMC-MN 1st Vice President
29973 293rd Street
Waubun, MN 56589
lblue1982@yahoo.com
Home: 218-935-2411 / Cell: 218-849-2232

Linda also has a "Public Issues" Message for Everyone:

"Seasons Greetings Ladies. I hope this message finds everyone healthy and happy after Thanksgiving. I know most of us have been already been effected by the winter snowstorms, but hopefully you all surviving and keeping warm. Our GFMC National Public Issues Chair, Celene Post has sent me a few tips for a safe holiday season and I would like to pass them on to you.

✓ If a stranger comes to your door, beware, criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. ✓ Try to be home for your deliveries, 'porch pirates' love stealing your boxes. ✓ It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. If you want to give to a charitable organization, search for one yourself and make your contribution. ✓ Burglaries increase during the holidays. Take a 'Holiday Inventory'. It is also a good time of the year to update or create your 'Home Inventory'. Take photos or make videos and make a list of your possessions with descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify your stolen items.

If you are interested in getting more details, just contact me and I can email you the informative brochure from Celene. The brochure also has safety tips if you are traveling, or if you are out for the evening, or if you are shopping. Have a safe and happy holiday and a happy new year!! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in 2020!"



The GFMC 'Million Dollar Club Grand Initiative' is to join the M. D. club by donating \$1000 dollars each to help maintain GFMC's historic D.C. Headquarters for all clubwomen, historical researchers, and future generations. Clubwomen, clubs, districts, states, and Regions can donate and join. Donations must be received before June 30, 2020. **A recommendation was made at the 2019 GFMC-MN Workshop in Little Falls to make a \$1000 donation and have our state federation join the GFMC Million Dollar Club.** This can only happen with the help from every GFMC-MN club member. GFMC-MN is asking that **every MN club member donate just one dollar each.** The club president can collect the member's dollars and send their check to the GFMC-MN State Treasurer, Pam Mithun at 46653 208th Street in Morris, Mn. 56267 no later than January or February of 2020. Please make your check payable to 'GFMC-MN' and note on the check "Million Dollar Club". GFMC-MN would love to present a \$1000 check to the GFMC International President at the 2020 GFMC-MN State Convention in Morton. **THANK YOU to all the clubs that have already mailed their check and for helping GFMC-MN reach this worthwhile goal!!**

As a part of the new 2018-2020 GFWC "Brand Initiatives," GFWC is asking each club to begin planning projects to celebrate this milestone.

Capture your club's centennial celebration and activities on camera and send them with a brief paragraph description to pr@gfwc.org for a chance to be featured on GFWC's blog!

In addition to celebrating the 19th Amendment, GFWC is asking you to contact your members of Congress to support H.R. 1923 and S. 2427, the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act.

Beginning in 2021, these bipartisan bills will allow a prominent trailblazing woman to be honored from each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories on the reverse side of the U.S. quarter. Urge your members of Congress to celebrate 100 years of suffrage for women by supporting the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program.



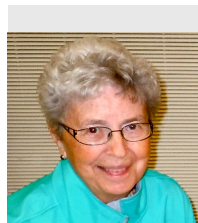
GFWC Potpourri
Glenwood's Fall Projects supported the GFWC-MN "Support Our Stars" Eagles Healing Nest Project and one of the GFWC International's "Seven Grand Initiative" to support our women in the military.

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we all do one
random act
of Kindness
every day, we just might
change the world in the
same direction.
- Martin Kornfeld

In October, the GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Club along with Pope County residents participated in their second Minnewaska Public School “Be Kind” Event. Club members, pictured above L. to R. are June Tweit, Darlene Femrite, Dist. 1 County Commissioner Nan Haggerty, Donna Hahn, Gail Morris, Sharon Larson, and Colleen Gandrud encircling students with a chain that was knitted last year. The ‘Be Kind’ organization worked throughout the year demonstrating and promoting acts of kindness in the schools and community. The founder, 98 yr. old Margaret Pedersen, led the students in a rousing cheer at the pep fest that ended in a pledge to always be kind. Indeed, Margaret is an exceptional role model! Her concept grew out of the Columbine school shootings called Rachael’s Challenge. Lets hope that this great Be Kind organization can catch on in other communities to help support their school’s efforts to reduce bullying and negative behaviors.

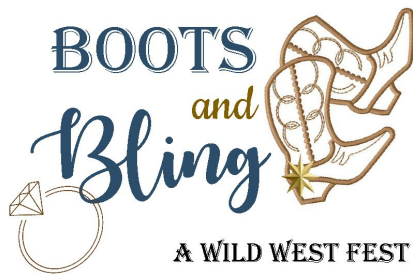
★ Pictured left, is club member Dee Hanson with bags of items for the veterans at Sauk Centre's Healing Eagle's Nest. The Eagle's Healing Nest's mission is to help heal the invisible wounds of war and ensure we do not lose another generation of veterans to homelessness, broken family units, or suicide. This is the fourth year that the clubwomen have donated items to the "Nest" to meet the housing and clothing needs for these veteran families. ★ To support the Grand Initiative, club members donated \$100 to the "Armed Forces Service Center" located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International (MSP) Airport which is designated for women in the military. The Center serves as an oasis for Active Duty military personnel, Reservists, National Guard and dependents as they travel through. It offers food, shelter or assistance. It is a one-of-a-kind facility and unique to Minnesota. Club member, Darlene Femrite states, *"The club's Fall Projects were so enlightening and gratifying! We will always thank our past and current military men and women for their brave service to our country."*



★ ★

A REMINDER from GFWC-MN Chaplain, Lucy Larson to all Club and District Presidents... Don't forget to 'paper mail' me your club obituaries (with photo if possible) to be used in our GFWC-MN Convention's memorial service. Please include the name of your district/club/city; how many years she was in your club; all club, district & state offices she held; and any club interests she had. Here are my addresses:

APR-SEP: P.O. Box 151, Elmore, MN 56027 **OCT-MAR:** 1764 Leisure World, Mesa, AZ 85206
(Phone: AZ 480-969-1255 or MN 507-525-3510) **Post Script:** Also, send a copy of your memorial announcement to:
Karla Mayhew, GFWC-MN Newsletter Editor (karamayhew@comcast.net)



GFWC Edina Federated Women's Club had a wildly successful annual fundraiser on Saturday, November 16th at the Edina Country Club. The club hosted 262 people to a fun evening of dining, dancing and live entertainment all with a western theme. Members spent many long hours over many months collecting items for the silent auction, soliciting sponsorships from companies, individuals, and members, as well as working on all aspects of the event itself. All proceeds will be given to two very deserving organizations: the Southside Family Nurturing Center in Minneapolis and Edina Give and Go.



Community Improvement Program Chair, Pat Stevermer wants to remind everyone that your CIP Project Report is due March 1, 2020. Everything you did on your project from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019 should be included in your report.

Entries are made to me, the GFWC-MN CIP Chair and then the winners are sent on to the GFWC National CIP Chair for determining the National Award winners. This is a wonderful award for clubs who meet the changing needs of their community. It also increases membership opportunities, develops leadership skills and creates public awareness of club activities and GFWC.

The following items are needed for a club to enter the state contest and be considered for the national contest. All kinds of help is available on the GFWC website or you can direct your questions to me. Essentials of a club project are:

- ✓ Identify and define the community need
- ✓ Describe the project selection process
- ✓ Explain how your club engaged community support
- ✓ Define how the project is financed
- ✓ Identify media support and the process in which it was obtained
- ✓ Recount how you overcame obstacles
- ✓ Don't forget to include a list of your collaborating partners (government agencies, service groups, professional organizations, etc)
- ✓ 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 (increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.)
- ✓ Focus on content

With the holidays almost behind you, I hope that you are in the process of finalizing your project report and I will be getting lots of Entry Forms and Reports sent to me! Happy New Year and Thank You!

Pat Stevermer by March 1, 2020.
720 3rd Avenue SW, Sleepy Eye MN 56085
507-794-7112 / stevermer@sleepyeyetel.net

FROM:
Everyone at GFWC of Minnesota
TO:
All the wonderful GFWC Club members and their families . . .



Let's make our New Year's resolution to do even more awesome GFWC projects in 2020!



IN REMEMBRANCE



Linda Russell
1941 – 2019

Linda (Wildhagen) Russell, 78, of Edina, MN, passed away on November 20, 2019. Linda grew up in Dallas where she graduated from Richardson High School, class of '59. She began her career in Dallas before moving to Brussels, Belgium, New York City, Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, PA and finally Minneapolis. Highlights of her distinguished career include her work for Baylor Hospital, The Dallas Chamber, Price Waterhouse, International Diabetes Federation, The World Economic Forum, and the Staubach Company.

Linda joined GFWC Edina Federated Women's Club in 2013 and lived in Edina's Point of France condominiums along with club member Kathy Post and a number of other club ladies. Unfortunately, Linda developed health problems preventing her from being as active in the club as she wanted to be, but attended meetings when she could. She will be truly missed.

Linda was a force of nature who had a unique ability to engage and connect with people. She was a fierce advocate for Type 1 diabetes. She is survived by her daughter and son and 3 grandchildren.



Joan Wilharm
1932 – 2019

Joan H. Wilharm, Age 87, of Apple Valley, formerly of Bloomington passed away on November 2, 2019. She showed incredible strength as she battled 2 years of cancer without complaining.

Joan was a charter member of the GFWC Bloomington Federated Woman's Club. For the club's 50th anniversary celebration, she wrote and read a history of the club from the time of its founding. It was factual, funny and very interesting. All the club ladies admired her writing and speaking skills. She also spent many years in volunteer services including Southdale Fairview Hospital, Loaves and Fishes, and many others.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, George "Rod" Wilharm, 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by 1 son, 1 granddaughter, and her twin brother. Joan had an infectious personality, a wonderful sense of humor and was the utmost hostess who never wanted to miss a party. She was a dear friend to many, going back as far as childhood, high school and as well friends at her Florida home. Joan was and will continue to be an inspiration to everyone who had the good fortune to call her wife, mom, grandma, and friend.



Mary Ann Elder
1933 – 2019

Mary Elder, age 86 of Golden Valley, passed away on November 23, 2019. She had many miracles along the way starting with battling pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer for 14 years.

Mary joined the GFWC West Suburban Women's Club in 1992 and was an active member and friend of the club. She served as a member on the Telephone, Membership, and House & Hospitality Committees, as well as serving 5 times helping to fundraise on the Ways & Means Committee. Also, for many years Mary was chair of a Club Interest Group, the RC's Gourmet Dining.

Mary was proud to have helped establish the Animal X-Ray Research Laboratory at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is survived by her beloved husband of 64 years, Alfred "Al" Elder; 1 son, 3 daughters; and 6 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by 3 sisters and her twin brother.



Lola Rundgren
1924 – 2019

Lola Marie Rundgren, age 95, of Starbuck, MN passed away on October 21, 2019. She was born in St. Paul, MN and spent her childhood in St. Ansgar, IA and Grand Meadow, MN. She graduated from Grand Meadow High School in 1942 and attended the University of Minnesota.

Lola met Earl, her husband of 67 years, while both were attending the U of M. They married in Grand Meadow and lived in Little Falls and Alexandria before moving to Starbuck in 1960. She worked with Earl in their State Farm office for many years.

Lola was a long-time member of the GFWC Starbuck Women's Club. She served as Club President from 1984 to 1986. As an active dedicated club member she also held several other offices and chaired several committees.

Throughout her life, Lola was involved in numerous church and community organizations. As a member of the Starbuck Depot Society, she worked with other community members to restore and maintain the original depot building. In 2006, she helped secure the Depot's designation on the National Register of Historic Places. The Depot currently serves as a gathering place for several community events including: Lefse Dagen, Heritage Days, and Eple Tiden. Lola participated in Starbuck's 100th Anniversary Celebration when the "world's largest lefse" was made and recorded in Norway's Schibsted Book of Records. Lola and Earl were honored for their volunteerism in 1998 by being named Grand Marshalls of the Grande Parade at the Heritage Days celebration.

Lola loved singing in the church choir, playing bridge, sewing and traveling. But her fondest memories were of travels to visit her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her 2 daughter, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by husband Earl.