



GFWC of MN

October 2022

President Linda Blue Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Important Dates

April 23-29 – Volunteers in Action Week

April 24th – GFWC Federation Day

May 5-7 – GFWC MN Convention Alexandria, MN

June 10-12 – GFWC International Convention

July 22nd – Fall Workshop St. Johns, MN



Club Anniversaries

GFWC Cosmopolitan Women's Club – 50th Year

GFWC Bloomington Federated Club – 60th Year

Find Us Online!

www.gfwc.org

www.gfwcofmn.org

Facebook: @gfwcmn

Dues Reminder

Dues are due **December 15th!**

They are \$20 per member, and should be sent to:

Samantha Johnson-Purdie, GFWC of MN
Treasurer
PO Box 254
Silver Lake, MN 55381

Dues form is attached to the email!

Greetings from Linda Blue

Greetings to everyone. I know this is a little late, but hopefully we will be on a schedule now. We are going to try to get the newsletter out every other month. If you were unable to attend either state convention or fall workshop, here is the information on the focus for my term.

Theme is “**Heroes Everywhere**”. I would like each club to recognize a group of “heroes” that helped get us thru the last 2 years. It does not have to be doctors and nurses, which of course are on the list, but don't forget about EMT's and ambulance drivers, teachers, the linemen that kept power in our homes, the clerks at the grocery store and pharmacy, firemen, volunteers that kept manning food shelves, delivering meals, the 18-wheeler driver that got our goods to the stores. Just anyone and everyone that risked their own health to help the rest of us survive the past 2 years. You can take on one project for the term, once a year or one each month, just whatever your club would like to do. Be sure you submit a narrative report on each project.

It can be something small or large, whatever your club wants to do. Some suggestions include:

- take cookies or a meal to the fire hall, police station, or nurses station.
- sponsor an ice cream social in a park (great if you want to social distance)
- take food or snacks to hospital or nursing homes with instructions that they go to employee lounge or break room
- apples for teachers, janitors, and office staff at schools

During the next few months, I would like for every club and district to review their bylaws. We are going to revise the bylaws at the State Level as needed, and I want the Districts and Clubs to review theirs also. We have a bylaws committee chaired by Yvonne Schilplin, and Jan Latola (our parliamentarian) will assist her. I would also like all the district presidents to be on this committee. If any member, or club president has any suggestions please feel free to contact your district president to talk to them about it. The committee is responsible for reviewing and revising the State and District bylaws. Each club will review their own, but the committee will be glad to help upon request. They have some great ideas and a lot of knowledge, they would love to help.



We will continue to have ZOOM calls, just not every month. Since we can meet in person now, we will just have zoom meetings maybe once a quarter or every other month, unless needed sooner. Anyone can request a Zoom meeting in the interim.

I would like to see if we can get more members to attend our meetings and zoom calls. We have already voted to change our Fall Conference to one day. If we could get the State Convention to 2 days, would more ladies attend? I am open to suggestions on what you think would increase attendance. We still have business to conduct, but what would you like to see more of? Speakers, workshops, or entertainment? Let me know if you have a topic you would like to see covered. I hate the reasoning "that's what we have always done". If there is a good reason, that's great. But if it's "always done that way". Maybe we need to rethink it.

Thanks and feel free to contact me or any of your officers or program chairmen if you have any questions or suggestions. lblue1982@yahoo.com Home # 218-935-2411 Cell# 218-849-2232

WHRC Update

By Jennell Jorgenson-Johnson

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirit. While looking through the information on what to say about WHRC, I pulled a few details from the GFWC website.

Founded in 1984, The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and women volunteers. The WHRC maintains the GFWC Archives and related multimedia collections and a research library. The WHRC is a resource for GFWC members and staff, as well as scholars, students, and the general public. It provides research assistance on both the resources at WHRC and the location of archival records of state federations and local clubs. In addition, WHRC serves as a resource for state and local clubs in preserving their history.

One question I heard often during my years in GFWC, was what, where, and how do we find a location to preserve our history books, etc. While WHRC does not collect the archival records of member clubs, it is a valuable resource for researching an appropriate repository for donating local or state records. As GFWC members, we can contact the WHRC at whrc@gfwc.org or 202-347-3168 to discuss possible options for your locality, including local libraries with special collection departments; city, county, and state historical societies; and college and university libraries.

Here is a list of documents to consider as you gather and protect your historical documents.

TYPES OF DOCUMENTS WITH PERMANENT HISTORICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE VALUE

Architectural records	Articles of Incorporation
Artifacts (3-D objects, like pins, badges, gavels)	Audiovisual recordings
Audits, budgets	Bylaws and revisions
Clippings (newspaper and magazines)	Constitution and revisions
Correspondence of officers	Directories
Financial Reports	Handbooks (club manuals, guidelines)
Legal documents (deeds, contracts, etc.)	Memoranda
Minutes of meetings	Membership lists
Organizational charts	Photographs
Planning documents	Press releases
Programs, handouts, and flyers	Publications
Reports (annual, board, committee, etc.)	Rosters
Scrapbooks	Speeches
Subject files	Tax files

The GFWC website also has a fantastic PowerPoint slide presentation on our headquarters, so if you need a quick program for your club meetings, you will find it in the digital library under the W's, titled "WHRC, this old House Presentation"



GFWC Starbuck held its regular meeting at the Glacial Hills State Park located south of Starbuck. Several of our members also volunteer as members of the “Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park”. They were organized in 2003 and have made several efforts to increase visitation and revenue for the park. They volunteer their time on “Park Permit Day” to encourage park users to purchase their permits and an “Annual Park Open House” to take advantage of the state’s generosity and designating this day to be a free pass day to encourage park attendance. They also volunteer their time and labor to help keep the park well maintained and up to date. It was a beautiful evening and Park Specialist, Deanna Massmann, gave us a lot of information on the different projects and events sponsored by the park.

Legislation/Public Policy Update

By Mona Gregersen

Happy Fall Everyone!

For more than 130 years, GFWC has helped to raise awareness of specific issues which require attention on the national level. GFWC is a non-political and non-denominational organization, and all resolutions are practical and not political. As a private citizen, you can contact your legislator on any matter. If, however, you are making a contact as a GFWC member, make sure that your message is aligned with the values and resolutions supported by GFWC. Current resolutions can be found by using the Membership Portal.

The Legislation/Public Policy theme for the 2022-2024 administration is *Together We Advocate for Those in Need*. The goals of this administration include:

- Increasing participation in the Legislative Action Center
- Educating members about GFWC’s legislative priorities
- Promoting advocacy as the extension of our volunteer work
- Building relationships with decision makers
- Promoting GFWC as a brand that lawmakers and community members recognize

New to this administration is a *Legislation/Public Policy Scavenger Hunt Project*. Items for the scavenger hunt can be found in the Legislation/Public Policy Toolkit which can be found in the Membership Portal Digital Library. Clubs and states competing and scoring the highest points will be recognized at the 2024 GFWC Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

October will be a busy month for our legislators and candidates as we close in on the mid-term elections. In Minnesota, early voting began on September 23rd and continues through November 7th. Make sure you are registered to vote. You may have to re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or turned 18. (Many of you look so young, you may want to carry your driver’s license as proof of your age.) If you are re-registering, bring along a utility bill with your current address as proof of residence. You can receive an absentee ballot and vote at your county election office. There are also some city offices that serve as a place to vote. Minnesota residents can also apply for an absentee ballot online by contacting mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us

You may see some unfamiliar names on your ballot this year as Minnesota has just gone through the redistricting process. Borders have changed and you may find yourself in a different house or senate district. There are several precincts throughout rural Minnesota with low populations which have changed to mail-in voting only. If you live in one of those precincts, you will receive your ballot in the mail.

We’re hoping that all our members are signed up to be part of the Legislative Action Center (LAC). You can sign up for LAC by going to GFWC.org Click on the “What We Do” tab and click on Legislation/Public Policy. Scroll down and click on the image that says, “Legislative Action Center”. Click on the blue button that says, “Join Now” and don’t forget to check the boxes that say, “Remember Me” and “Email Opt-In” to get alerts and notifications issued by GFWC. Throughout the year, the LAC sends out alerts on legislation that is pending and asks you to respond to your legislators. The form is always provided and all you need do is fill out your contact information and push send. Several of our members have expressed difficulty in responding to the alerts. The LAC has recently changed platforms which brings changes. If you are having difficulties in responding, please send an email to: dnjones@gfwc.org The most current alert is: Prevent Online Sexual Exploitation of Children.

There are several meet and greet opportunities taking place throughout Minnesota. Attend one in your local area to decide which candidate best represents you. These





events also provide an opportunity to get to know your representatives on a personal basis. Establishing a relationship is key to further communication.

Thank you to those of you who continue to serve as election judges. Through the pandemic, it became difficult for precincts and counties to find volunteers. You do not have to live in the precinct to serve as an election judge. Election judges are required to attend training classes which are held in-person and online.

We would like to see a major increase in volunteer hours reported in Legislation/Public Policy from the State of Minnesota. Possible hours can be reported in:

- *Contacting your representative by phone, email, or mail (When making a contact, identify yourself as a member of GFWC if you are advocating for a resolution passed by our organization.)
- *Inviting elected officials as speakers to your club meetings
- *Sponsoring candidate forums for community members
- *Establish a legislative chairperson for your club
- *Signing up for LAC (Make it a club event and sign up everyone)
- *Volunteer for voter registration drives
- *Educate your membership on GFWC resolutions

Exercise your voice by voting!



Leadership Update

By Kathy Carney

2022-2024 brings us to a new administration under the guidance of Debra Strahanoski our new GFWC International President and Linda Blue our new GFWC State President. In a letter from Debra to all federation members she states, "her hope for GFWC is to continue strengthening the many facets of leadership necessary to ensure the future and sustainability of this organization."

Annually, GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) provides new and aspiring leaders with a day of leadership training. LEADS is held the day prior to the GFWC Annual Convention and may include topics such as public speaking, time management, visioning, and conflict management. States may send one member.

States are now encouraged to expand LEADS training opportunities by creating a state leadership pathways program. While this is a large undertaking it also provides us with the opportunity to nurture and grow the skills of all GFWC members at the local level. It also gives us the opportunity to identify and utilize all the talent we have within our clubs along with knowledge from our past LEADS graduates. Together we can plan, design, and build a Minnesota program model.

Through Linda's leadership we are proposing the development of a new Level 1 LEADS that would complement the existing LEADS program. Using Zoom we would design a program model and develop one class that would be given the morning before the start of our 2023 state convention. All clubs would be invited to send one club member to participate and evaluate the class. Program design and development would continue and improved as needed. We will soon be contacting Leads graduates and District Presidents. Please contact Kathy Carney at jandkcarney@paulbunyan.net or 218-252-6654 for more information



Women Who Make A Difference!

By Barbara Dietl

The Winthrop GFWC would like to lift up women in our local area who are making a difference in our communities. We decided to honor 3 women a year and started our event in 2017. Recently we held our 4th annual "Women Who Make a Difference" dinner at Hahn's Dining & Lounge on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022 with the club members giving the added special touches of a dessert table, our tables set with fine china & linen from our homes, a silent auction, extra promotion with advertising, the newspaper, and Facebook. 72 tickets were sold. Profit from the ticket sales as well as money from the silent auction will go to scholarships to high school girls in May. We honored Mary Jane Ohland, Marlene Roepke and Madalyn "Perp" Weber.



Photography Contest

By Karen Kaler Bruce

The GFWC Photography Contest encourages members artistic expression and visual storytelling. You don't need an expensive camera to take great pictures! Today's cell phones offer a way to take creative pictures that are contest worthy.

The World In Pictures Contest - These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, way, as expressed in these three categories.

Our World Up Close- create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole, new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that are larger than life. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.

Natural Wonders- Use wide angles and panoramas, or changeable landscape images to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts or any other magnificent vista.

Reflections- Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

GFWC Living The Volunteer Spirit Contest These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate, in groups or one on one. Awards for the top three national entries in each contact and category are First Place \$100, Second Place \$75 and Third Place \$50.

For contest rules and waiver forms please consult the Club Manual. The cutoff date for all entries is May 15, 2023. You can contact me with questions at 952-237-6020 or at Karenkaler0505@gmail.com

Jenny Award Contest

By Linda Blue



The GFWC Jennie Award honors one clubwoman from each GFWC region for outstanding commitment to club, community, and family. Nominations will be evaluated equally on these three commitments. Each club is welcome to select one GFWC Jennie Award nominee and should submit its narrative describing a nominee's qualifications, you should send a news release or article about your nominee to local media outlets. There are strict rules to follow, and they can be found in the GFWC Member Portal, Club Manual under Jennie Award. The nomination materials should be postmarked to the State President (Linda Blue) no later than June 1, 2023. The Jennie Award winner from the region is expected to attend the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, IL. This contest is run once each term.

Obituaries – Memorial Ceremony

By Kay James

This will be the procedure when a member of your club passes away between July 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023

Send the obituary to Kay James at 31321 Forest Trail, Park Rapids, MN 56470 or kaydon@paulbunyan.net before April 10, 2023.

The Memorial ceremony at the state convention will be the deceased member's history as a GFWC club member. Please include years as a member, any offices they held in the club, district, state, or higher plus major activities and chairmanships. Our state convention begins on May 5, 2023.

GFWC Christmas Cabin

By Samantha Johnson-Purdie

Every year each state is asked to send something special to headquarters that represents our state. This year, we are sending a cabin and the following statement.

"Minnesota is known for its abundance of natural beauty. There is a wide variety of terrain types, which makes our state home to everything from forests and lakes to farms and wetlands. Staying at cabins along lakes and in the woods is a great way to enjoy this beauty to its full potential.

Our state is also known for its often unpredictable weather, and its cold and snowy winters. Like the Halloween Blizzard of 1991: temperatures earlier in the week had been in the 60's, but between October 31st to November 3rd the historic storm covered the entire state. Duluth wound up with a record-breaking accumulation of 36.9 inches from this single storm.

Known as the "Land of 10,000 lakes", some of our state symbols are aquatic based, including our state grain. Wild rice (*shingles on the cabin*) is an aquatic grass not related to common rice. It grows naturally in the shallow waters of lakes in central and northern Minnesota. Most of the world's wild rice comes from our state.



Membership

By Diane Hannah

Hello to the GFWC MN officers, District Chairs, Club Presidents, Club Members, and Medallion Club Members. As your new President Elect, I want to say thank you for all you do for GFWC!

We've had some difficult years beginning in 2019 but our members have stepped up to the plate and been able to communicate and gather with excellent results. I hope you as members and/or Medallion Club members feel you are in the know as far as what's happening in our state.

I was so pleased to see the new GFWC MN Directory published and forwarded to us this month. I feel more confident now that I will be able to get to know some of you better with emails and phone conversations and letters.

A question came up recently about our new members and how they get their information online, so they get "News & Notes" and access to the GFWC.org website. There are a couple ways these things happen. When a member joins your club, the club treasurer is responsible for sending the names in to the GFWC MN State Treasurer. That information is sent to GFWC corporate. Secondly, you, as a member can log on to GFWC.org and set up your own account so you have access to all information about the organization. Your club guru may be able to help you with that task. It's called your "member profile". You can buy GFWC clothing and office supplies and event tickets too. You also have access to the weekly News & Notes, the monthly Club Woman magazine and club manual and so many other things. It's a "wealth of information"! Try it out. GFWC.org and set up your member profile.

If you have issues with the member profile, report it by emailing GFWC.org. Have fun with it! Questions not being answered, contact me at dmhannah50@yahoo.com and I'll try to help you get it figured out



Empowering Women to Lead

By GFWC Nevis Women's Club

For more than a century, the GFWC Nevis Women's Club has served this northern Minnesota community of 400 through innovative volunteer service. Recently, the environment became a focal point; the development of a pollinator garden in the heart of the village was initiated. Scholarships are now being awarded. And the club donates to local programs. But the club's recent "Empowering Women to Lead" conference, drawing an audience of 300 from a 75-mile radius, may prove to become its hallmark.

Discussion began two years ago, when the club met to review its strategic plan and identify new objectives. Area organizations provide crisis intervention, food support and additional needed resources, but the club questioned what could be offered to provide a positive impact for women living in small rural communities. Traditionally, these communities' jobs offer a low wage. Many rural women do not pursue a post-secondary

education. Females in the 45- to 54-year-old age group are more likely to be single; 9.4 percent of females live in poverty. "The road to success is limited."

"There is lack of research focused on the percentage of abused women living in rural communities compared to urban areas, but what we do know is that intimate partner violence is aggravated by fewer resources in rural communities," the club determined. And the planning – and pursuing of funds – began. Banks, foundations, energy cooperatives and other organizations stepped forward with donations. "The Nevis Women's Club is all about support, empowerment, inspiration, encouragement and providing resources that uplift women to a level where one can reach their desired individual success," organizers explain. The event was designed to provide women with personal and professional growth opportunities that may boost a career, encourage some to return to school or engage in leadership opportunities within the community.

The keynote speaker at the conference, noted Polar explorer Ann Bancroft, led a rapt audience "to the far regions of the globe," sharing adventures she experienced as the first woman to traverse the ice to reach both the North and South Poles. "I've dreamed of faraway places since I was 8," said Bancroft. "What happens on an expedition also happens in life," she said of the laughter and struggles experienced on the journeys across the ice. Bancroft was joined by speakers offering insights on "plugging into nature," adapting perseverance... and "never stop dreaming." Fundraising for the project, the organizers point out, could not have been accomplished without the GFWC's 501c3 status.

Evaluations of the subsequent questionnaires from the attendees, who range in age from 16 to 80-plus, are underway. Focus groups, including those from area Ojibwe reservations and communities, will form. "An analysis is in progress..."

