



GFWC
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**GENERAL FEDERATION
 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



GFWC MN NEWS In A Nutshell

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Greetings fellow GFWC MN members! I'm writing to you from home with my 2-year-old Lab Charlie at my side and my husband relaxing in front of the tube. We live on 5 acres in Bovey, about four miles from Grand Rapids. Ron and I just finished painting our house, deck, attached garage and large back garage by ourselves. It will be the LAST time! It was, really, too much up and down ladders for Ron at 84 and me at 73.

Just like changing the color of paint on the house, we find ourselves in a difficult time. We're engrossed in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) era. NO, I AM NOT A ROBOT!

We're facing increasing costs of living with food, clothing and housing skyrocketing. Medical care is outrageous too. Where's it all going to end?

We have grown children and grandchildren. Some are working more than one job to make ends meet. Others are holding their own with government assistance. What's happening with the children? What are your grandchildren and maybe great grandchildren doing with their time? Are they sitting with their heads bent over a screen with their thumbs going a mile a minute? Yes! I've seen my own grandchildren text or game with each other while they're sitting a foot apart. Their conversations are all on media not voiced through their mouths. Those around them carry on a conversation and when asking a question of them, the response is "what?" or they don't acknowledge you at all. I've seen children fail in school because they have anxiety issues or just don't feel like going to school. It worries me greatly!

"Our Children Are Our Future" is my theme for the next two years. Our children need our help. They may not want it, but I'm determined to see that we do what we can to get them back on the right track.

Our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for their present and their future.
 - Zig Ziglar

So, here's my plan: Starting with the GFWC MN Workshop on July 20 at St. John's University, we're going to do things for our children. We'll start with Missing Children. Patty Wetterling will share her story with us at the Workshop. As Jacob's Mom, she has one awesome story to tell. I'm reading "Dear Jacob" right now and know you will be impressed by her sincerity.

The future which we hold in trust for our own children will be shaped by our fairness to other people's children.
-Marian Wright Edelman

Secondly, at the Workshop, we'll be doing a Children's Service Project. **Please bring your scissors.**



After the workshop, I want you to think about ways to help our children. Libraries, schools, churches, the Y, and clubs all need volunteers to help the children. We'll be giving you some ideas at the workshop, too.

At the Workshop, we'll be handing out new Directories. Have you, as District Presidents, sent in the names, email address and phone number for your new District Officers, and the new officers of the clubs in your district? If not, they will not be listed in the directory and people will be calling the old officers.

WE WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU!

The newly appointed Program Chairs will be expected to have a display at the Workshop and will each give a two-minute presentation on what their expectations are for the next two years. I've included a list of appointees, so you'll know who to look for. We'll also expect Program Chairs to have an article ready for the upcoming issues of **GFWC MN NEWS In A Nutshell** (about every 2 months).

I know we're starting off with a BANG! You'll find that I have a strong will to succeed and am taking you along for the ride! Are you ready?

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Looking at this list, we still have several open positions. The TREASURER is such an important position. It's vital that we fill that position immediately. Sam Johnson Purdie has already served four years and has turned in her written resignation. Won't you please think about taking on this position? I am willing to work with you, one on one, to help with the transition.

Hoping to see many of you at the Workshop. Don't forget to get your Registration in as soon as possible. Barb Nalan is waiting for your response. Attached is a copy of the Registration Form.

Respectfully,
Diane Hannah, President
GFWC MN

