



GFWC MN NEWS In A Nutshell

2025 - 2026 Vol 2. No. 4

President's Article:

HATS OFF FOR THE CHILDREN!

Have you ever had one of those epiphanies in the middle of the night, where you just can't get back to sleep until you write it down?

Well, here was mine: How about using our convention to raise money for children and let us all dress up and wear our finest hats on Saturday and every time someone says, "HATS OFF FOR THE CHILDREN", we each throw a dollar or other monetary amount in a hat for the local children? Or if we do a 50/50 draw, half goes to the winner and half to the children? We'll work on the specifics, but **BE PREPARED!**



Remember to bring your fanciest hat for Saturday activities and we'll take our **HATS OFF FOR THE CHILDREN**. We'll have some fancy purses for the live auction on Saturday and of course the Derby will kick off that weekend, too. I'm pretty sure Kay James will be there to help get you in the mood! Yvonne was so kind last year to bring a hat for me to wear. This year I've got my own and it's a winner! Bring your favorite for the "PARADE OF HATS"!

Are you aware of any Empowering Women that need to be honored from your clubs or districts? If so, we'll need a list so we can make up a booklet for the convention, too. Send me an email!

More hats: Please bring a stocking cap or hats to be donated to local children's charity.

I'm sure looking forward to seeing all of you on **MAY 1-3, 2026**, at the **BEST WESTERN NEW ULM** for the **GFWC MN CONVENTION!** We've gathered there before and we know there is a lot to do for tours. The Schell Brewery, the glockenspiel, the Historical Society, downtown shopping and so much more.

Watch for more details in April!

Diane Hannah, President
GFWC MN



You are invited to the
131st GFWC MN ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the GFWC MN Southeast District

May 1-3, 2026

Best Western Plus (New Ulm Conference Center)
 2101 S. Broadway New Ulm, MN 56073

HATS OFF FOR THE CHILDREN!

Fri, May 1, 2026	1:00-3:00 PM	Registration open
	2:00 PM	“Connecting GFWC to Communities” Workshop with GFWC Int’l First Vice President Jolene Frankfurth
	3:00 PM	Budget/Board Meeting Tour of your choosing or shop on your own. Dinner on your own or with tour group
	7:00 PM	Social Get Together
Sat, May 2, 2026	8:00-9:00 AM	Registration open Creative Arts Activity—decorating hats for Kentucky Derby Arts & Crafts Display set up in meeting room
	9:00 AM	Convention Opening Ceremony Business Meeting Noon Box Lunch
	1:00 PM	Resume Business Meeting with Reports and Club Awards
	3:00 PM	Inspirational Speaker Suzanne Sukalski (www.sunshine-suzy.com)
	4:00 PM	District Baskets and 50-50 Drawing
	6:30 PM	Officers line up for Processional
	7:00 PM	Banquet Speaker GFWC International 1st Vice President Jolie Frankfurth “Strong Women of GFWC”
Sun, May 3, 2026	9:00 AM	Final Credentials Report Invite to 132nd Convention from SW District

REGISTRATION

Hotel: Best Western Plus New Ulm Convention Center
2101 S. Broadway New Ulm, MN.
A block of rooms at \$139.00 per room for GFWC MN until 4/1/2026
Reserve early online www.bestwestern.com

REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 17, 2026.

CHECKS FOR REGISTRATION MADE PAYABLE TO GFWC MN AND MAILED TO REGISTRAR

Sue Felmlee GFWC SE District Treasurer
128 Jay Street LeSueur, MN 56058

(612)203-4764

email: s_1109@hotmail.com

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ CLUB _____

DISTRICT _____ NEW MEMBER _____ 1ST TIME ATTENDEE _____

Registration Fee is REQUIRED for ANYONE attending ANY portion of the Convention Weekend

REGISTRATION	\$20.00	_____	
SATURDAY LUNCH	\$21.00	_____	
SATURDAY BANQUET	\$40.00	_____	
TOTAL	\$	_____	(\$81.00 for all)

(Registered hotel guests receive free continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
 All others are on their own for those meals.)

What to bring:

- District Baskets
- District flags, stands, and white gloves to carry flagpoles during processions
- White 3-ring binders (Officers, District Presidents, and anyone who received a white 3-ring binder, bring it for updates and be prepared to give it to your successor)
- Your favorite hat for a **Parade of Hats!**
- A child's stocking cap for a donation to local children.

It's all about HATS!



**You Are Invited to “Read A Book, The World Awaits”
The GFWC MN North District Meeting**

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Host Club: GFWC Blackduck Tri Sigma, Blackduck, MN

Where: Blackduck Evangelical Free Church, 241 Oscar Avenue SW, Blackduck, MN

Time: 9:00 to 9:30 am Registration, enjoy coffee, juice and muffins

Advisory Board Meeting (Present District Officers, Club Presidents and past District Presidents)

9:30 Convention Convenes

2:00 Convention Closes

Program: “Read A Book, The World Awaits”

Presented by Joni Armstrong, local author and illustrator

Special State Guest: Dianne Hannah, GFWC Minnesota State President.

Cost: \$20 per member

\$20 per club for GFWC State North District Basket

Registration Due: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to



Wallpapercave.com

GFWC MN North District has planned an Amazing Meeting!

Be sure to come, visit with other wonderful club women!

(You might want to reserve time after the meeting to visit Blackduck Art & History Center on Main Street, Anderson Fabrics Outlet store, and Northwoods Gift Shop on Summit Avenue)

Meeting Happenings

1. Baskets There will be two (2) baskets available to buy chances to win.

2.

*The host club will be having a 50/50 split the pot.

District Basket for State

Each district in MN will prepare a unique basket to be raffled off at the State Convention. To prepare our district basket, each club is asked to contribute \$20 toward the North District Basket for state.

District Basket for the North District

North District will have a basket available for meeting goers to win on March 28.. The money raised will be used to contribute to the North District budget.

GFWC Blackduck Tri Sigma

The proceeds from split the pot will help off-set convention expenses incurred by the host-club. Fifty percent of the money collected will go to the winner and fifty percent to the host club.

2. Arts and Culture Exhibit

Hopefully, you have created some amazing art works this past year.

Jackie D. Barclay will be awaiting your creative art object upon your arrival. Art contest rules are included on another document.

3. Club Reports

Each club should prepare about a two minute report of their club’s activities, projects, and share your club’s “Good News.” Select a person from your club to present this report to the attendees. Please have two written copies, one for the district president and one for the district historian

4. Memorial Service

Please submit names of deceased members by Wednesday, March 18 th with the club registration. At the meeting, a brief report of the deceased member’s contribution to GFWC will be shared by a person of the deceased member’s club.

*If you need any assistance call Shirley Deno, North District Meeting Chair, at 803-528-4622

GFWC MN ARTS AND CRAFTS CATEGORIES 2025-2026

Entries must have won blue ribbons at the GFWC MN district level to be submitted to state. Attach an entry form with category number (i.e. C-1) and identify if STUDENT or MEMBER. Include a brief description of the article, the participant's name, sponsoring club and district. The items will be placed in the Art Display room at the GFWC MN 2026 Convention for showcase. Some ribbons may be issued at the State level.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C-1 Needlepoint (including klokkestreng, lace not darning) | by maker |
| C-2 Counted Cross Embroidery | C-17 Quilting, Large pieces quilted by other |
| C-3 Cutwork Embroidery, Hardanger | C-18 Quilting, Small pieces hand-quilted by maker |
| C-4 Other Embroidery (chichenscratch, crewel, candlewicking, trapunto) | C-19 Quilting, Small pieces machine quilted by maker |
| C-5 Knotting (tattling, macrame) | C-20 Quilting, Small pieces quilted by other |
| C-6 Lace (Battenberg, hairpin, broomstick) | C-21 Quilting, tied |
| C-7 Combination needlework | C-22 Applique |
| C-8 Knitting, Large Pieces (sweaters, afghans) | C-23 Sewing, apparel (including quilted garments) |
| C-9 Knitting, Small Pieces (mittens, hats) | C-24 Sewing, home decorating |
| C-10 Machine Knitting | C-25 Stuffed toys (including dolls) |
| C-11 Crocheting, Large pieces (sweaters, afghans) | C-26 Doll clothes |
| C-12 Crocheting, Small pieces (doilies, scarves) | C-27 Decorating a ready-made garment |
| C-13 Weaving | C-28 Rosemaling, Tole Painting, China Painting |
| C-14 Rugs (hooked, braided) | C-29 Scrapbooking (no larger than 12.5x12.5, no more than 10 2-sided pages not previously entered. |
| C-15 Quilting, Large pieces (perimeter 200" or more) hand-quilted by maker | C-30 Greeting Cards, Stationery, Quilting |
| C-16 Quilting, Large pieces machine quilted | C-31 Holiday Ornaments |
| | C-32 Beadwork (including beaded jewelry) |
| | C-33 Jewelry (excluding beadwork) |
| C-34 Ceramics, pre-molded forms | V-6 Ink |
| C-35 Pottery, original forms | V-7 Scratch Art |
| C-36 Leather and Metal Tooling, Woodburning, Stained Glass, Tin Punch | V-8 Pencil |
| C-37 Woodworking (toys, ornaments) | V-9 Sculpture (plastic, clay, wire, stone, concrete, paper-Mache, metal |
| C-38 Woodcarving, Whittling | V-10 Printing, Stamping from original block |
| C-39 Nature Crafts (dried floral, driftwood, shells, rocks) | V-11 Computer-generated Art |
| C-40 Artificial Flower Arrangements | V-12 Mixed Media |
| C-41 Basketmaking, Wheat Weaving | V-13 Snapshot |
| C-42 Calligraphy | V-14* Photography, World in Pictures Natural history (plants, animals) |
| C-43 Paper Cutting | V-15* Photography, World in Pictures Scenic Vistas (natural and constructed) |
| C-44 Miscellaneous Crafts | V-16* Photography, World in Pictures Feature (people, events) |
| VISUAL ARTS | V-17* Photography – GFWC Volunteers in Action |
| V-1 Painting, Oils | *Follow GFWC guidelines in the Club Manual to advance to national. |
| V-2 Painting, Acrylic, Tempura | |
| V-3 Painting, Watercolor | |
| V-4 Pastels, Chalk, Crayon, Marker | |
| V-5 Charcoal | |



Greetings **West Central GFWC** Presidents and District Officers,

You and your clubs are cordially invited to the West Central District meeting on April 11, 2026, at Minnewaska House, 24895 MN Hwy 28, Glenwood, MN

8:30 a.m. Registration and social time with light breakfast.

9:00 a.m. The call to order.

Registration: \$30.00 which includes morning coffee and lunch. Your registration should be sent as a club with a listing of each member who will be attending.

Memorials: A memorial service will be held to honor members who have passed away since our last meeting. Club presidents should be prepared to give a two-minute report about your club's past year's accomplishments.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 11th .

Sincerely, Sandra Josephs, President GFWC Potpourri Glenwood

Official Letter of Call

GFWC Southwest District Convention, April 18, 2026

Tracy United Methodist Church, 162 Morgan Street, Tracy MN



Help Tuck Them In!

- TRACY LIONS CLUB - GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP TIGHT
 - 8:30 - 9:30 am Check In - Cost is \$12.00
 - 9:00 am Board meeting for club presidents and district officers
 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Coffee and rolls
 - 10:00 am General Meeting - Speakers: Lori Alf, Joe Buyck
"Help Tuck Them In" Because every child deserves a bed.
 - 11:30 am Salad Luncheon

Items to remember:

- Send club reports and memorials to Linda Fransen by April 4
- Please bring a \$25 club basket to District Convention



Official Call to Convention
GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club
Cordially invites you to attend the

GFWC of Minnesota- East Central District's

113th Annual Convention
Tuesday April 7th , 2026
The Wyndham Hotel

14201 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville 55337

Please bring Diapers and/or Wipes for our service project

Keynote Speaker
Bridget Root
“Grow your Money”
Break out Workshops
“Grow your Knowledge”



Fundraising, Membership, and Leadership

Executive Board Meeting 9:00-9:45
Convention Registration 9:00-10:00
The Convention Convenes at 10:00
Convention Registrar: Kayla Myhran
Convention Chairs: Karen Bruce and Kayla Myhran
Fill out & mail the bottom portion with your check

Saturday, April 18 SOUTHEAST DISTRICT American Legion in Silverlake, MN time unknown



From the Minnesota Star Tribune:

Back in the 1920s, when the General Federation of Women's Clubs first came up with the idea of naming a state bird for every state, the loon was not in the running for Minnesota. The Minnesota chapter initially voted the robin as its favorite, followed by the meadowlark and the American goldfinch.

It was not until 1961 that the State Legislature voted for the loon!

From Leslie Capps,
 Founder, Wild Woman Marketing, and GFWC Communications and PR Honorary Chairman

Throughout the coming year, we want to share the stories of GFWC members from across the country—grassroots members, new members, long-time leaders, and women whose service quietly changes lives every day. These stories will help us honor who we are, preserve our history, and inspire both current and future members. They will also help us show the public the depth, diversity, and character of the women who make up this Federation.

If you have ever wondered whether your story is “big enough,” “interesting enough,” or “important enough,” let me reassure you: it is. Some of the most powerful narratives come from ordinary moments—your first project, the woman who invited you to join, the moment you realized your contribution mattered, or the experience that taught you something about leadership, service, or resilience.

Your story does not need to be polished. It does not need to follow a specific structure. It just needs to be true. If you feel called to share, or if you would like to nominate a fellow member whose story deserves to be told, we invite you to reach out. We have created a dedicated email address for submissions to MyStory@GFWC.org. A member of the Communications team will follow up with simple next steps.

As we move into 2026, let us honor what has always made GFWC extraordinary: the women who show up, serve boldly, and lead with heart. By sharing your story, you help preserve our legacy—and you help spark the next generation of GFWC who are searching for a place to belong and a purpose to live out.

Your voice matters.



Interesting Historical Notes



In 1922 the Federation purchased 1734 N Street NW for its Headquarters.

As you travel to district meetings and conventions - remember to say thanks to GFWC Club women who have given their energy to work for safety on our highways from white lines to car seats.

A program of traveling libraries began with small rotating collections sent to rural communities in 1900.

The American Library Association credited GFWC with establishing 75% of America’s public libraries.